DONALD TRUMP

Votes: 7,12,76,823

Vote %: 51%

CAMPAIGN SPENT:
$881 million (Rs 7,429 crore)

292 SEATS

SO FAR 516/538 (MAJORITY MARK: 270)

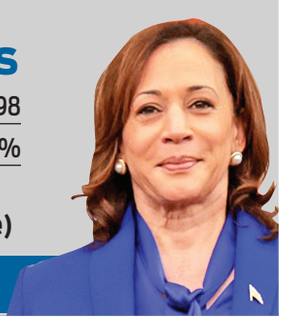
KAMALA HARRIS

Votes: 6,63,48,798

Vote %: 47.5%

CAMPAIGN SPENT:
$356 million (Rs 3,002 crore)

224 SEATS



www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 7 NOVEMBER 2024 | THURSDAY | BENGALURU | 5 JUMADA I, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 281 | Pages: 8

TRUMP SURFS THE RED WAVE

WASHINGTON DC, 6 NOV

Donald Trump was on Wednesday elected as the US President for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history, four years after an election loss in 2020 to Joe Biden that sparked a violent insurrection at the US Capitol.

The 78-year-old Republican leader, convicted of felony charges and awaiting sentencing in a hush-money case in New York, defeated his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in a bitterly fought election.

According to races called by the Associated Press up to 7 pm (IST), 280 electoral votes had gone to Trump and 224 to Harris.

Trump crossed the halfway 270 votes-mark in electoral college votes with victory in the battleground state of Wisconsin.

Addressing his supporters at West Palm Beach in Florida, Trump declared his victory, calling the mandate "unprecedented and powerful".

"Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason," Trump said, referring to the two assassination attempts during campaigns.

After President Grover Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897), Trump is the only person to return to the White House for another term after four years.

"I will fight for you, for your family and your future", he said. Trump won the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina and Wisconsin. Counting of votes was still underway in the swing states of Arizona, Michigan and Nevada at the time of publishing.

Earlier, Harris cancelled an election watch party in her alma mater Howard University after a clear trend in the counting of votes emerged.

The results are a big disappointment for Harris. She joined the race after President Biden dropped out from his re-election campaign in July, weeks after he came under scrutiny following his incoherent performance at a televised debate with Trump.

In her address after accepting the nomination, Harris vowed to "chart a new way forward" far devoid of cynicism and divisive politics.

The US has 50 states and most of them vote for the same party in every election, except the swing states.

One of the top priorities of Trump is to end automatic citizenship for children.

The swing states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, known as part of the Rust Belt, have been traditionally the strongholds of the Democratic Party.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Trump over phone. Trump said "whole world loves Modi" and described India as a magnificent country. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7

Donald Trump elected as 47th US President

At 78, he is oldest US President

1st US President with a felony conviction

I, as your next President of the United States, will bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families. Both sides will be able to come together and negotiate a deal that ends the violence and paves a path forward to prosperity

- Donald Trump, United States president-elect

We have a new star, a star is born. The people of America gave @realDonaldTrump a crystal clear mandate for change tonight

— Elon Musk, Tesla CEO

Heartiest congratulations my friend @realDonaldTrump on your historic election victory. As you build on the successes of your previous term, I look forward to renewing our collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership

— Narendra Modi, PM

US rejects woman president yet again

WASHINGTON DC, 6 NOV

More than a decade ago, a journalist called Kamala Harris "female Obama". However, the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants failed to match the achievement of first African-American president Barack Obama.

Democrat Kamala Harris won the electoral vote tied to Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District on Wednesday.

The sitting Vice President defeated Republican and former President Donald Trump in the district centred on Nebraska's largest city of Omaha and its surrounding suburbs.

Her defeat shattered her dream to become the first woman President of the US.

But her nomination enthused women that this door in public life is not closed to them.

Harris, 60, has known other firsts though. She has been the district attorney for San Francisco -- the first woman, first African-American and first Indian-origin person to be elected to the position.

Harris got her big chance when President Joe Biden abandoned his bid for re-election in July.

And she was one of only three Asian Americans in the Senate and the first Indian-American ever to serve in the chamber. *—PTI*

Will chart a new way forward, far devoid of cynicism and divisive politics

—Kamala Harris, Democratic candidate

SENSEX UP 901 PTS, NIFTY SETTLES 24,500

MUMBAI, 6 NOV

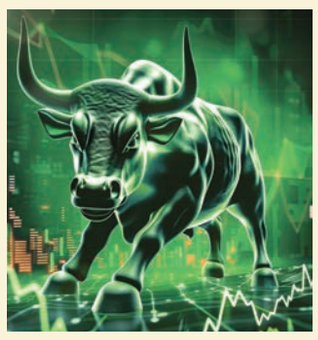
Stock markets rallied more than 1 per cent on Wednesday with benchmark Sensex soaring 901 points on heavy buying in IT and pharma shares amid Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential polls.

Extending its gains to the second day, the BSE Sensex jumped 901.50 points or 1.13 per cent to settle at 80,378.13. During the day, it soared 1,093.1 points or 1.37 per cent to 80,569.73.

The NSE Nifty soared 270.75 points or 1.12 per cent to close at 24,484.05.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys jumped over 4 per cent each. HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti and Reliance Industries were also among big gainers. Titan, IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank were the laggards.

The domestic buying was broad-based, with IT leading the charge in anticipation of a rebound in IT spending in the US. The BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.28 per cent and smallcap index zoomed 1.96 per cent. *—PTI*



Rupee falls 22P to all-time low

The rupee depreciated 22 paise to an all-time low of 84.31 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, as the US Dollar index rallied with Donald Trump set to win the US Presidential elections. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.23 against the US dollar. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

LMV licence holders can drive heavy vehicles: SC

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

In a significant ruling benefiting commercial drivers, the Supreme Court on Wednesday held that individuals holding a Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) driving licence are eligible to drive transport vehicles with a weight not exceeding 7,500 kg.

The judgement from a five-judge Constitution bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, offers clarity on licensing regulations and is expected to prevent insurance companies from rejecting claims based on the licence type of drivers involved in accidents.

"A driver holding a licence for light motor vehicle... for vehicles with gross vehicle weight under 7,500 kg is permitted to operate a transport vehicle without needing additional authorisation... of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Besides the CJI and Justice Roy, the bench also comprised Justices PS Narasimha, Pankaj Mithal and Manoj Misra. The bench upheld the 2017 judgement of the apex court in Mukund Dewangan case which had held that the LMV license holders can drive transport vehicles weighing upto 7,500 kg. *—PTI*

Can't bulldoze overnight: SC slams UP, issues rules

>>>More on Page 6

Spoke truth, says CM after 2 hrs of questioning

MYSURU, 6 NOV

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said he has answered all questions posed to him by Lokayukta police in the MUDA case and he has told them the "truth". The Lokayukta police questioned Siddaramaiah for about two hours.

CM, who has been named as accused number 1 in the FIR lodged by the Lokayukta police, is facing allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife Parvathi B M by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

"Everything has happened legally, BJP and JD(S) are making false allegations...I have answered all questions posed to me by Lokayukta Police, they have recorded it... they will proceed with further investigation," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters after appearing before Lokayukta police, he said: "...a false case was made against me, I was questioned, I have told the truth."

"Until it is decided by the court (about any wrongdoing) there is no black spot on my image. What is against me are just allegations. False allegations are made against me. I will respond to such allegations in the court and to the police during the probe," he said in response to a question. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

J&K passes resolution seeking Art 370 restoration

SRINAGAR, 6 NOV

Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution asking the Centre to hold dialogue with elected representatives for restoration of special status of the erstwhile state, prompting protests by BJP members who tore copies of the document and raised slogans against the speaker.

The resolution, which also expressed "concern" over the "unilateral removal" of the special status, was passed without any debate as the Speaker put it to voice vote amidst noisy scenes.

With the passage of the resolution, the ruling NC said it has fulfilled one of its manifesto promises while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said "Assembly has done its job".

Modi government abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

J&K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary moved the resolution which said, "That this legislative assembly reaffirms the importance of the special status and constitutional guarantees, which safeguarded the identity, culture, and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and expresses concern over their unilateral removal.

This Assembly emphasises that any process for restoration must safeguard both national unity and the legitimate aspirations. *— PTI*

>>>More on Page 5

INDIA TO HOST QUAD SUMMIT 2025

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

India will host the 2025 edition of the Quad Summit with newly-elected United States President Donald Trump set to attend the grouping.

The summit, originally planned for September in New Delhi, was held in New York due to scheduling conflicts among the leaders. For the last Quad Summit, PM Narendra Modi paid a three-day visit to the United States on 21 September. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement: "Following the request of the US side to host the Quad Summit this year, India has agreed to host the next Quad Summit in 2025. *—Agencies*

NAGASANDRA TO MADAVARA

Metro Green Line to open today

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

The 3.14km stretch of Bengaluru's Namma Metro Green Line extension from Nagasandra to Madavara will be opened for commercial operation from today, officials said on Wednesday.

The move comes after it received statutory clearance following a thorough inspection of the stretch by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (Southern Circle) on 3 October.

On Wednesday, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar inspected the metro line and took a test run of the stretch from Nagasandra to Madavara by travelling from Yeshwanthpur Metro Station. He was also joined by Bengaluru South MP and BJP leader Tejasvi Surya.

According to Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), this line, an elevated metro corridor under Phase-2 of the Project, is from Nagasandra to Madavara (BIEC) for a length 3.14 km and consists of three metro stations -- Majunathanagar, Chikkabidarakallu and Madavara (BIEC). It is completed at a cost of Rs 1,168 crore.

Namma Metro extends its operation from Nagasandra to Madavara, on Wednesday
PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

175km metro lines & 21 trains to be added by 2026: DKS

Shivakumar announced that 175 km of new metro lines would be operational by 2026 in Bengaluru.

"We have completed the first and second phase of metro and the Centre has approved the 3rd phase of metro. We have already paid up Rs 1,130 crore for new train sets," he added. *—Salar News with PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

KHARGE DISSOLVES CONGRESS UNIT IN HIMACHAL

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday dissolved the entire Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) unit in Himachal Pradesh along with the district and block units with immediate effect.

The move is seen as part of the Congress' plan to restructure the Himachal unit of the party. There has been no change in the PCC ever since the Congress formed its government in the hill state.

Outgoing president of Himachal Pradesh Congress Pratibha Singh has already become a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party. Singh, who is wife of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, was appointed as state Congress chief in April 2022.

Several names are doing the rounds for the new party chief in the state. *—PTI*

TRUMP TRIUMPHS

After win, Trump promises to bring 'golden age' & heal nation

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

- The election result makes him the only US president after Grover Cleveland to serve non-consecutive terms. Cleveland was both the 22nd and 24th president, serving from 1885 to 1889 and then again from 1893 to 1897.

Donald Trump on Wednesday promised to bring a "golden age" for America, as he won the presidential election with a mandate he called "unprecedented and powerful".

"This will truly be a golden age for America. This is a magnificent victory that will also help us to make America great again," Trump, 78, told his supporters in the wee hours of Wednesday at Palm Beach Convention Centre in Palm Beach, Florida. He was accompanied by most members of his family, including his wife Melania Trump.

Vice President-elect JD Vance and his Indian American wife Usha Vance were also present on the podium. Trump praised both his running mate and Usha for their support throughout the process.

Harris, 60, had not conceded defeat at the time of filing of this report. A senior campaign official told supporters at Howard University that she will speak later on Wednesday.

"You won't hear from the vice president tonight, but you will hear from her tomorrow," Harris campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond said.

In his speech, Trump also spoke about stopping illegal immigration.

"America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate. We have taken back control of the Senate," he said, adding that possibly that the Republicans would retain a majority in the US House of Representatives.

In his brief speech, Vance described Trump's victory as one of the greatest political comebacks.

"After the greatest political comeback in American history, we're going to lead the greatest economic comeback in American history under Donald Trump's leadership," he said.

Arriving at the Palm Beach Convention Center in Palm Beach, Florida, some 10-minute drive from his Mar-a-Lago residence, Trump thanked his fellow countrymen for electing him as the 47th president of the United States.

"I want to thank the American people for the extraordinary honour of being elected your 47th president, and your 45th president," Trump said.

The election result makes him the only US president after Grover Cleveland to serve non-consecutive terms. Cleveland was both the 22nd and 24th president, serving from 1885 to 1889 and then again from 1893 to 1897.

He told his supporters that the county has delivered a powerful and unprecedented mandate. *—PTI*

TRUMP'S LEGAL TROUBLES MAY END

Donald Trump didn't just beat Kamala Harris. He beat the system that tried to put him in jail. He can now dismiss the most serious criminal charges against himself. He is the first former US president to face criminal charges and the third to be impeached.

The four major criminal cases he faces are: the classified documents row, in which he is accused of illegally retaining classified documents after leaving office; the hush money payments to pornstar Stormy Daniels during 2016 presidential election; the 6 January Capitol riots (see below); and efforts to overturn 2020 election results in Georgia.

WHAT HAPPENS TO 6 JAN CONVICTS?

Trump is the alleged mastermind of the 6 January, 2021, Capitol riot, when a mob of his supporters stormed the US Capitol to disrupt the certification of Joe Biden's 2020 election victory. The rioters broke through barricades, vandalised offices, and clashed with cops. As of 2024, 1,400 individuals have faced federal charges, of which 277 are in jail. With Trump now returning to the presidency, he could issue pardons for those convicted, including those facing death row.

TRUMPS'S BIG PROMISES

1. End war in Ukraine before Inauguration Day (20 Jan, 2025)
2. Seal the border, stop migrants, carry out the largest deportation
3. 10% import tariff, tax cuts
4. Make US a crypto capital
5. Build iron dome missile defence shield over US
6. Keep US dollar as the world's reserve currency

2 BLACK, 2 MUSLIM WOMEN MAKE HISTORY

The US will have two Black women serving as senators for the first time in US history:

Lisa Blunt Rochester from Delaware (D) & Angela Alsobrooks (D) of Maryland.

Democratic Party's Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar – the first two Muslim women to serve in the United States Congress – have won re-election to the US House of Representatives.

Tlaib, is also the first woman of Palestinian descent in the US Congress.

GENZ FACES SIGNATURE CRISIS

13,000 mail-in votes junked

in Nevada due to unclear or inconsistent signatures

from GenZ voters. Many of these voters had signed on digital pads when registering for voting, leading to mismatched signatures. Since cursive handwriting is no longer widely taught in schools the Gen Z youngsters do not know how to do the signatures.

ZERO IS NO HERO

Green Party's Jill Stein and Independent candidate Robert F Kennedy Jr, who expressed support for Trump, failed to secure any votes in the Electoral College.

THE BRO-CODE DOES IT

Elon Musk, the world's richest man and one of Donald Trump's fiercest supporters, received special mention when the President-elect claimed victory at a massive rally in Florida.

The 53-year-old billionaire turned X into a campaign platform and pumped $120M into backing the campaign.

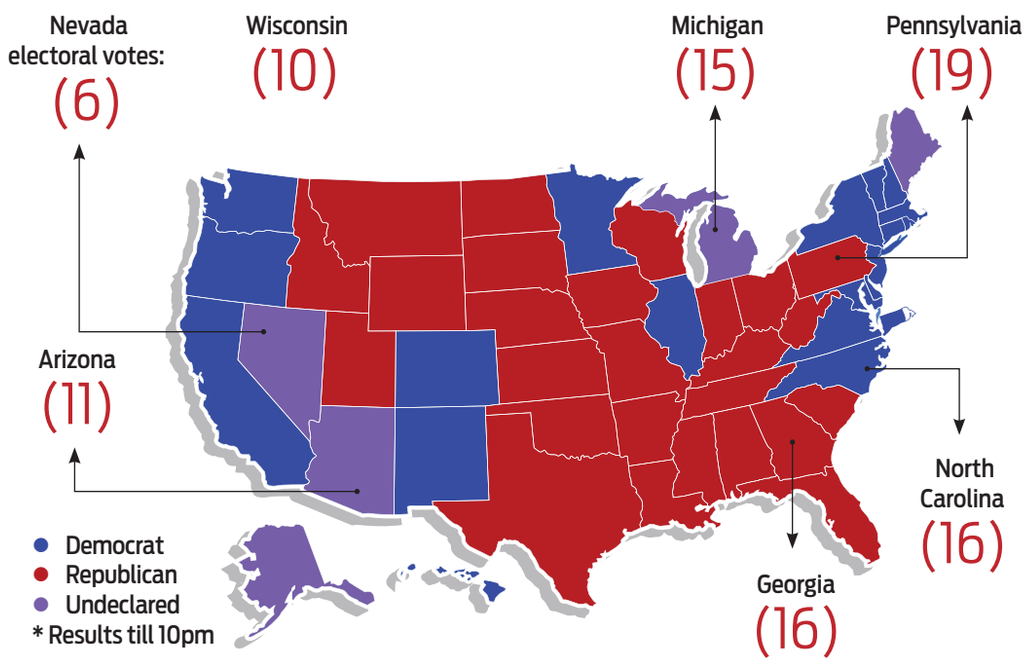
HERE'S WHAT TRUMP'S WIN MEANS FOR MUSK

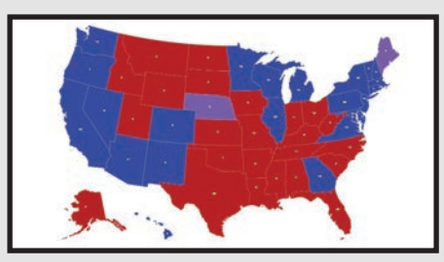
- Trump has said he would invite Musk into his administration to help eliminate government waste.
- Musk's SpaceX, which dominates in sending government satellites into space, will benefit.
- It Musk's electric vehicle company, Tesla, could gain from Trump cutting regulatory tariff.
- It will defence and spy satellites, getting billions of dollars from the Pentagon and US intelligence agencies. Space tourism is likely to gain momentum .
- Musk's Starlink is eyeing the Indian satellite internet market, and Trump's friendship with PM Narendra Modi could provide an advantage.
- Musk could use his Trump connections to target rivals in the aerospace industry,

TESLA SHARES SOAR
Tesla's shares surged 14.62 per cent to $288.38 after results
Musk's wealth surges by $20.5B too

US map reddens as Republicans beat Democrats black & blue

Trump bagged all the 7 swing states ensuring his White House return

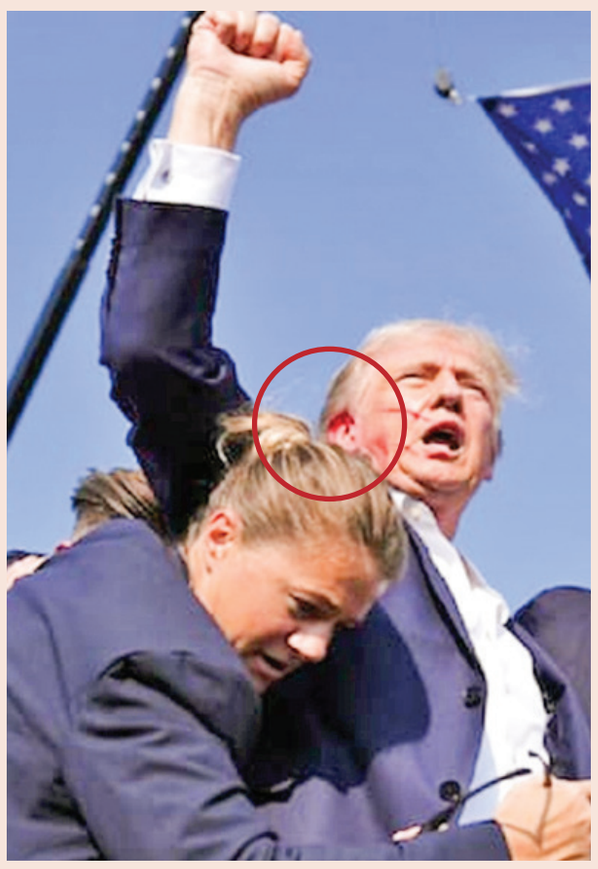




2020: THE YEAR OF DEMS

Joe Biden had a dominating lead over Trump in opinion polls. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, voter turnout grew by 7% from the 2016 elections. Trump won 74M votes. However, Biden received 81M votes, the most ever and he clinched the presidency in the Electoral Collage by winning 306 votes to Trump's 232.

THE 'ASSASSINATION PLOT' FACTOR



Trump had a close brush with death twice this year. In July 2024, he survived an assassination attempt at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, where a gunman fired several shots, killing one supporter. The bullet grazed Trump's ear. Three months later, a murder plot against him was foiled after Secret Service spotted a gun muzzle poking out from bushes at Trump's Florida golf course.

INVESTORS BET ON RED

Stocks, bond yields and bitcoin advance as US polls bring Republican gains

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

Share prices and bond yields surged Wednesday as the Republican party gained control of the Senate and former president Donald Trump was leading in the still incomplete vote counts from Tuesday's election.

The full results may not be known for days as officials count all the votes, but investors already were repositioning in anticipation of gains by the Republicans, who took control of the Senate for the first time in four years. The results of the House elections were not yet finalised.

The future for the S&P 500 gained 1.7 per cent and that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 1.8 per cent. The Nasdaq composite future was 1.8 per cent higher, auguring gains for markets on Wednesday.

The price of bitcoin jumped 7.7 per cent to a record $75,345.00, as investors bet on a victory for Trump, who has pledged support for cryptocurrencies. Bond yields also surged, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury climbing to 4.4 per cent from 4.28 per cent on Tuesday.

Markets worldwide are fixated on what the election will mean for US economic, monetary and trade policy, as well as geopolitics.

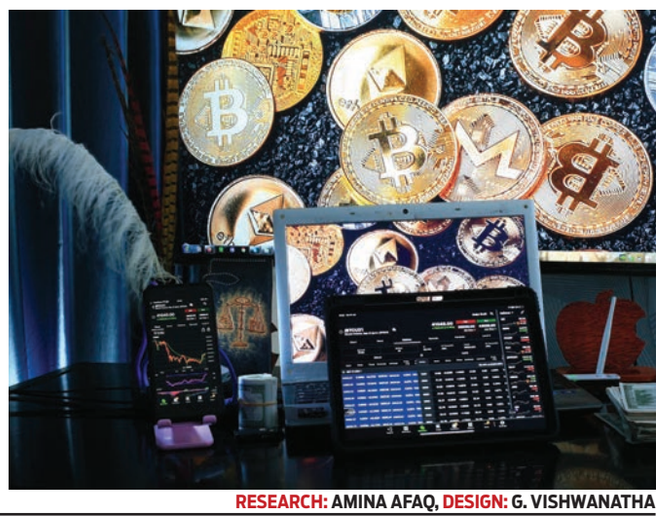
The broad US stock market has historically tended to rise regardless of which party wins the White House, even if each party's policies can help and hurt different industries' profits. Since 1945, the S&P 500 has risen in 73 per cent of the years where a Democrat was president and 70 per cent of the years when a Republican was the nation's chief executive, according to Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

On Tuesday, US stocks advanced as voters headed to the polls and fresh data showed the economy remains healthy. The S&P 500 rose 1.2 per cent and the Dow industrials climbed 1 per cent. The Nasdaq composite gained 1.4 per cent.

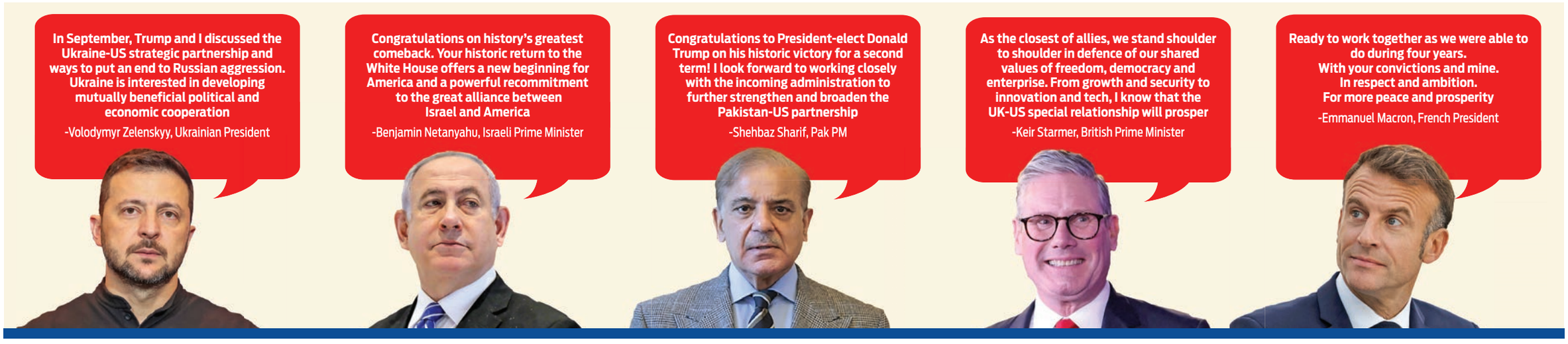
Trump Media suffers $19.2M loss

The parent company of Donald Trump's social networking site Truth Social lost USD 19.2 million in the last quarter, according to a report . Trump Media and Technology Group reported that much of that loss stemmed from more than USD 12 million in legal fees, along with a decline in revenue. Its stock price surged Wednesday but that was more likely due to Trump's win. *—PTI*

$75,345 Bitcoin's new all-time high as investors rallied behind a potential Trump victory, betting on his favorable stance toward cryptocurrencies.



RESEARCH: AMINA AFAQ, DESIGN: G. VISHWANATHA


In September, Trump and I discussed the Ukraine-US strategic partnership and ways to put an end to Russian aggression. Ukraine is interested in developing mutually beneficial political and economic cooperation
-Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukrainian President
Congratulations on history's greatest comeback. Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America
-Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister
Congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump on his historic victory for a second term! I look forward to working closely with the incoming administration to further strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-US partnership
-Shehbaz Sharif, Pak PM
As the closest of allies, we stand shoulder to shoulder in defence of our shared values of freedom, democracy and enterprise. From growth and security to innovation and tech, I know that the UK-US special relationship will prosper
-Keir Starmer, British Prime Minister
Ready to work together as we were able to do during four years.
With your convictions and mine.
In respect and ambition.
For more peace and prosperity
-Emmanuel Macron, French President

Republicans retake control of US Senate

Reps flip seats in Virginia, Ohio, Montana to bag 52 out of 100 seats

President-elect Donald Trump kisses his wife Melania Trump **PHOTO: PTI**

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

Republicans have taken control of the US Senate and are fighting to keep their majority in the US House, which would produce a full sweep of GOP power in Congress alongside President-elect Donald Trump in the White House.

A unified Republican grip on Washington would set the course for Trump's agenda. Or if Democrats wrest control of the House, it would provide an almost certain backstop, with veto power over the White House.

Tuesday's general election saw a third of the upper chamber in Congress — or 34 seats — hit the ballot, of which approximately nine were competitive.

The rally for Republicans started early on election night in West Virginia, when Jim Justice, the state's wealthy governor, flipped the seat held by retiring Senator Joe Manchin. From there, the Republicans marched alongside Trump across the Senate map.

Republicans toppled Democrat Senator Sherrod Brown in Ohio, the first incumbent senator to fall, with GOP luxury car dealer and blockchain entrepreneur Bernie Moreno. They chased Democrats in the "blue wall" states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where Vice President Kamala Harris strained to carry the party forward.

Democratic efforts to oust firebrand Republicans Ted Cruz of Texas and Rick Scott of Florida collapsed.

One of the most-watched Senate races, in Montana, was decided early Wednesday. Democrat Jon Tester, a popular three-term senator and "dirt farmer" in the fight of his political career lost to Trump-backed Tim Sheehy, a wealthy former NAVY Seal, who made derogatory comments about Native Americans, a key constituency in the Western state.

The fight for control of the House became a state-by-state slog, much of which unfolded far from the presidential race.

House races are focused in New York and California, where Democrats are trying to claw back some of the 10 or so seats where Republicans have made surprising gains in recent years.

Other House races are scattered around the country, with some of the most contentious in Maine, the "blue dot" around Omaha, Nebraska, and in Alaska.

To gain control of the House, Democrats need to flip four seats from Republicans, while holding all of their own, a tall task especially in congressional districts where Trump has won. It could come down to just a handful of seats, or as little as one, to determine House control. *—PTI*

Trump & The Red Dragon

America's ties with China have huge implications for global security and trade. In previous term, Trump imposed tariffs on some Chinese imports. Beijing did the same with American imports. The Covid pandemic worsened the ties as Trump, who was under fire for "misinformation" about the pandemic, labelled Covid a "Chinese virus". Incidentally, the Biden administration retained much of the Trump-era tariffs on imports. The trade policy is likely to be in tune with US voter perceptions about saving manufacturing jobs. Trump has praised Chinese President Xi Jinping as both "dangerous" and "brilliant" - something critics dub his admiration for "dictators".

THE SENATE RACE

VERMONT

Bernie Sanders, Ind | Gerald Malloy, D

FLORIDA

Rick Scott – R | Debbie Mucarsel-Powell – D

NEBRASKA

Deb Fischer, R | Dan Osborn, Ind

OHIO

Bernie Moreno, R | Sherrod Brown, D

TEXAS

Ted Cruz , R | Colin Allred, D

Vance is 3rd youngest Veep at 40

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

JD Vance, a 40-year-old senator who transformed himself from a biting critic of Donald J Trump to one of his fiercest defenders, was elected the next Vice President of the US on Wednesday, becoming the third youngest and among the least experienced and most polarizing politicians ever to hold the office.

The country's 50th Vice President will be sworn in just two years after assuming his first public office as a senator from Ohio. Vance is unlike any other vice president before him in the modern era: None has started the job with such an extensive public record of condemning his or her boss.

He is also a former Trump critic whose political evolution, culminating in him becoming the president-elect's running mate, showcases how Trump has taken over the GOP and reshaped it in his own image.

Republican VP-elect JD Vance hugs President-elect Donald Trump at an election night watch party in Florida on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Raised by his grandmother in a working-class town in Ohio as his mother struggled with drug addiction, Vance will soon be first in the presidential line of succession. His against-all-odds upbringing was a key component of his speeches on the campaign trail as he introduced himself to voters and sought common ground with Trump's base of blue-collar supporters.

His 2016 memoir, 'Hillbilly Elegy', shot Vance to stardom in a nation seeking to understand the Rust Belt appeal of Trump.

Vance also called Trump's "America's Hitler" in 2017.

To walk beside Trump is to reconcile with the ubiquity of controversy.

For Vance, that included an onslaught of criticism immediately after joining the ticket for his jolting put-downs of "childless cat ladies." He had eagerly brandished the phrase to attack public officials without biological children, revealing a disregard for blended families or adoption.

As the pressure mounted, he ripped a page from the Trump playbook and refused to back down. *—Agencies*

Supporters celebrate Donald Trump's win at the Palm Beach Convention Centre, Florida, on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

6 Indians to rule in the House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

Indian-American lawyer Suhas Subramanyam also created history by becoming the first from the community to be elected from Virginia and the entire East Coast, raising the strength of Indian diaspora from five six in the House of Representatives.

All the five existing Indian American members were re-elected to the House of Representatives. Subramanyam defeated Mike Clancy of the Republican Party. He is currently a Virginia State Senator.

There is a possibility that the number of Indian Americans in the House of Representatives could increase to seven as Dr Amish Shah was leading by a slender margin against his Republican incumbent in the first Congressional District of Arizona.

"I am honoured and humbled that the people of Virginia's 10th District put their trust in me to take on the toughest fights and deliver results in Congress. This district is my home. I got married here, my wife Miranda and I are raising our daughters here, and the issues our community faces are personal to our family.

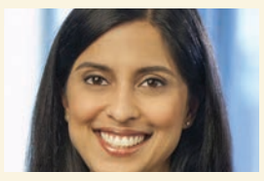
It is an honour to continue serving this district in Washington," Subramanyam said.

Subramanyam joins the Samosa Caucus in the Congress that currently comprises Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal and Shri Thanedar. *—PTI*

MEET US FIRST INDIAN 2ND LADY

Trump heaped praised on his running mate JD Vance and his Indian-American wife Usha Chilukuri Vance

Who is Usha Vance?



- Her parents emigrated from Andhra to the US in 1986.
- Usha was raised in San Diego.
- She has a Masters in Philosophy from University of Cambridge.
- She served as Managing Editor and Executive Development Editor in The Yale Law Journal.
- Usha met Vance at Yale Law School and got married in 2014 in a ceremony that included a Hindu ritual.
- They have three children.
- She works as a corporate litigator at a firm in San Francisco. Her legal career also includes clerking for US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

7 states overturn abortion ban

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

Voters in Missouri cleared the way to undo one of the nation's most restrictive abortion bans in one of seven victories for abortion rights advocates, while Florida, Nebraska and South Dakota defeated similar constitutional amendments, leaving the bans in place.

Abortion rights amendments also sailed through in Arizona, Colorado, Maryland and Montana. Nevada voters approved an amendment, but they will need to pass it again in 2026 for it to take effect. Another law that bans discrimination on the basis of "pregnancy outcomes" prevailed in New York.

The results include firsts for the abortion landscape, which underwent a seismic shift in 2022 when the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, a 1973 ruling that ended a nationwide right to abortion and cleared the way for bans to take effect in most Republican-controlled states.

Among Trump's inconsistent positions on abortion has been an insistence that it is an issue best left to the states.

Republicans celebrate in Michigan on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

In the meantime, Missouri is positioned to be the first state where a vote will undo a ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with an amendment that would allow lawmakers to restrict abortions only past the point of a fetus' viability – usually considered after 21 weeks, although there's no exact defined time frame. Bans, however, remain in place in three states after votes. Florida, Nebraska and South Dakota became the first states since Roe v Wade was overturned where abortion opponents prevailed on a ballot measure. Most voters supported the Florida measure, but it fell short of the required 60 per cent to pass constitutional amendments in the state. Florida voters have rejected an initiative seeking to legalise recreational marijuana use for adults aged 21 and older.

Trump snaps at reporter

Trump snapped at reporters when asked about his stance on Flordida's contentious abortion measure. *—PTI*

DEMOCRAT PELOSI WINS RE-ELECTION TO THE US HOUSE

WASHINGTON, 6 NOV

Democrat Nancy Pelosi was re-elected to a US House, representing California, on Wednesday.

Elected to the House in 1987, Pelosi was the first woman to become US House speaker. She has led the House Democrats since 2003, making her the longest-serving leader in the party's history in Congress. She played a key role in efforts to pressure President Joe Biden to withdraw his candidacy for re-election in 2024. Pelosi represents a district that encompasses most of San Francisco. She is regarded as one of the most effective House speakers in history. Since 1987, Pelosi has represented California's 12th Congressional District, which includes most of San Francisco, a district known for its progressive stance on many issues. *—PTI*

Mars and Venus: Why Trump won

It was the first presidential election after Supreme Court overturned Roe vs Wade and ended a woman's right to abortion. It was also the first time that a Republican presidential candidate had a hypermasculine approach. And it appears to have mattered. While women made up a clear majority of Harris' supporters, men backed Trump.

- Black, Latino and young voters have been the bedrock of Democrats. But AP VoteCast, a survey of 1.1 lakh voters, suggested that the groups shifted in Trump's favour.
- 4 in 10 young voters went for Trump, up from about one-third in 2020.
- 8 in 10 Black voters backed Harris, down from 9 in 10 for Biden. Half of Hispanic voters backed Harris, down from 6 for Biden in 2020. Trump's support rose.
- Harris went after more educated voters — including moderate Republicans — repelled by Trump.
- 4 in 10 voters considered the economy and jobs the most important problem
- 2 in 10 voters said the top issue is immigration, an anchor of Trump's argument
- 1 in 10 picked abortion, a pillar of Harris' campaign
- 1 in 4 Trump voters said the assassination attempts were the most important factor
- Half the voters said the future of democracy influenced them the most.

MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The FBI on Tuesday said its name and insignia were misused in election-related videos. One of them featured a fabricated press release alleging that the management of five prisons in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Arizona rigged inmate voting and colluded with a party.

CM's questioning is stage-managed: BJP

If you are honest, hand over MUDA case to CBI, saffron party tells Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

BJP on Wednesday ridiculed the Lokayukta police interrogating Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the MUDA case, saying that it was a "stage-managed questioning" and a "match fixing".

As Siddaramaiah appeared for questioning before the Lokayukta Superintendent of Police TJ Udesh, BJP challenged him to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) if he was honest.

In this case, it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land "acquired" by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

"Chief Minister today (Wednesday) appeared before the Lokayukta police. We all know that the Lokayukta cannot do anything. It's all stage-managed by him (Siddaramaiah) only to show that he is clean. This doesn't suit him," BJP senior leader and former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa told reporters here.

BJP workers being detained by police during their protest against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in Mysuru on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

He said if Siddaramaiah is really honest he should hand over the case to the CBI.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka wondered whether the investigation was "match fixing". "CM's tour programme says he would enter the Lokayukta office for interrogation at 10 AM and would proceed for Channapatna at 12 noon. How can he fix time to question him? Is it a match-fixing? How did he know at what time the investigating officer would complete his questioning? How is the investigation happening?" he asked.

Lok Sabha member and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also flayed Siddaramaiah.

"For the first time in the history of Karnataka, a sitting chief minister is appearing as an accused before the police officer who has worked under him. This has lowered the dignity of the chief ministerial post," he noted.

BJP cadres protested in Mysuru when the CM went to the Lokayukta office for questioning. They hit the street with posters, banners and placards. As the agitation intensified, the police took them under preventive custody and released them later.

—PTI

Ministers slam BJP for seeking CM's resignation

MYSURU, 6 NOV

Social Welfare and district in charge minister HC Mahadevappa on Wednesday took strong objections to Opposition BJP leaders over seeking resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramiah over appearing before Lokayukta SP in MUDA scam, on Wednesday. He attacked BJP leaders BS Yediyurappa, R Ashoka and others to seek resignation of the CM as they have no moral right to seek the same. Are BSY, R Ashoka judges to direct CM to tender resignation, he questioned.

—Salar News

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addresses media after being questioned by Lokayukta police in MUDA case, in Mysuru on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Media's questions to CM not from Lokayukta: SP

MYSURU, 6 NOV

Lokayukta SP TJ Udesha on Wednesday clarified that the questions that media asks Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during questioning were not prepared questions from his office. Speaking to reporters after completing the questioning session with CM in connection with the MUDA scam, the SP asked the media channels to stop telecasting such fake information. The SP said his office has completed most of the stages of investigation into the MUDA scam as it must submit its report to the High Court before 25 December. Replying to High Court directions to his office to submit the report of progress of the MUDA scam investigation on 25 November hearing in the court, he said that his office will abide by the directions. Lokayukta deputy superintendent of police Thomas Mathew and Inspector Lokesh were present during the questioning. *—Salar News*

Naseer Ahmed **PHOTO: PTI**

'CENTRE WANTS AGENCIES TO HARASS CM'

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed alleged that BJP-led Central government wants all the agencies to harass CM Siddaramaiah. However, he added that they will not find anything.

Ahmed said, "There is no charge against the CM. He is clear. He has gone to Lokayukta Police and appeared there to respect the law of the land. He has a very clear conscience that he has not done anything wrong. He will not do anything wrong. He is a man with a clean image. After the inquiry, the CM has said that these are all fake cases filed by BJP and it is their agenda to bring CBI...They (the centre) want all the agencies to harass the CM. They will not find anything." *—ANI*

METRO TRAVEL AT EASE

Commuters cherish the opening day of Namma Metro Green Line extension from Nagasandra to Madavara on Wednesday; DCM DK Shivakumar inspects Yeshwanthpur Metro Station **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Man throws 2 kids & nephew into river, jumps later

GADAG, 6 NOV

A 40-year-old man allegedly threw his two children and a nephew into the Tungabhadra River before jumping in himself near Korlahalli in Mundargi taluk of this district, police said on Wednesday.

Police suspect that a quarrel between Manjappa Arakeri and his wife on Tuesday night may have led him to take this extreme step.

A search operation is underway to trace the bodies of Arakeri, his children Dhanya, 6, Pavan, 4, and nephew Vedant, 3, they added. Preliminary inquiries revealed that Arakeri was an alcoholic and often fought with his wife over petty issues, a senior police officer said. Following the quarrel with his wife, he allegedly went to the Korlahalli bridge over the river with the children and jumped into the river after throwing them in, he said.

"A search operation is underway to recover their bodies from the river," he added. *—PTI*

ASI UNAWARE

Waqf Board claims 17 monuments in Bidar Fort

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

Karnataka Board of Waqf has identified 17 monuments inside the historic Bidar Fort as its property, sources in the district administration said on Wednesday.

These properties are among the major landmarks of the fort located in the district headquarters town of Bidar.

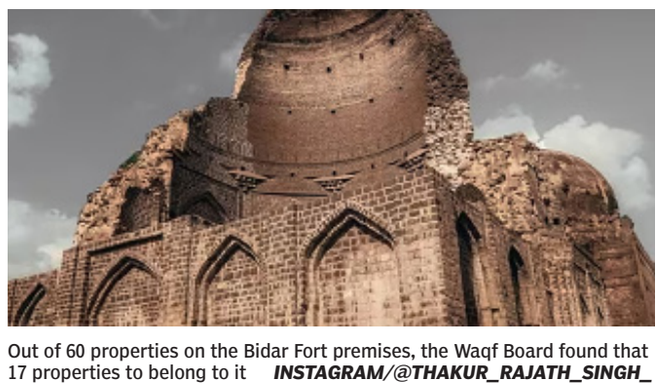
Archaeological Survey of India, the custodian of the fort, is unaware of the development; the sources said, adding that out of 60 properties in the Bidar Fort premises, the Waqf Board found that 17 properties to belong to it.

These include renowned 16-'Khamba' (sixteen pillar) mosque, 14 tombs of various Bahmani rulers and their family members including Ahmed Shah-IV, Ahmed Shah's wife, Allauddin, Hassan Khan, Mohammed Shah-III, Nizam, Sultan Ahmed Shah Wali and Sultan Mahmud Shah.

A top Waqf Board official told PTI, on condition of anonymity, that notices have not been served to the ASI.

"How can the Board issue a notice to the ASI, which has been the custodian and protector of the historical monuments for several decades.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 Jagdambika Pal will visit Hubballi and Vijayapura on 7 November to interact with farmers allegedly affected by Waqf Board's action. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya had requested Pal to invite farmers from Vijayapura as witnesses to discuss their land disputes with the Waqf Board. *—PTI*



Out of 60 properties on the Bidar Fort premises, the Waqf Board found that 17 properties to belong to it **INSTAGRAM/@THAKUR_RAJATH_SINGH_**

Man arrested in Haveri for issuing threat to Salman

HAVERI, 6 NOV

A 32-year-old man from Rajasthan, accused of threatening to kill Bollywood actor Salman Khan, was apprehended here and handed over to Maharashtra Police on Wednesday, officials said.

Bhikha Ram, also known as Vikram had been staying at various locations in Karnataka before moving to Haveri about a month and a half ago, police said. He had been working at construction sites and was residing in a rented room in Gowdar Oni, they added.

A police source said, "The accused was watching a regional news channel when he called Mumbai Police control room and issued a death threat to Salman Khan. He claims to be a fan of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi." *—PTI*

175km of Metro will be ready by 2026: DKS

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced on Wednesday that 175km of new Metro lines would be operational in Bengaluru by 2026.

After inspecting the newly extended line from Nagasandra to Madavara on Tumkuru Road, he said, "30km of new Metro lines will be added by 2025, and 175 km of new metro lines will be operational by 2026."

Shivakumar also conducted a test run on the Nagasandra to Madavara stretch, travelling from Yeshwanthpur Metro Station. He was accompanied by Bengaluru South MP and BJP leader Tejasvi Surya and other MLAs.

"We have completed the first and second phases of the metro, and the Centre has approved the third phase. We have already paid Rs 1,130 crore for new trains," he said.

Shivakumar mentioned that the government is in talks with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to build an underpass at Madavara metro station.

"Plans are underway to construct a pedestrian skywalk at Manjunathanagar metro station. We have also entered into an agreement with Indian Railways to jointly develop a pedestrian passage at Yeshwanthpur railway station," he added.

He said a project report has been prepared to develop an underpass at Chikkabidarakallu in collaboration with NHAI. "We are also discussing with NHAI to build an underpass at Madavara station." *—PTI*

RISHI IN TOWN

Ex-British PM Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty with Sunak's in-laws, Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy and Sudha M offer prayers at Raghavendra Swamy Mutt in Bengaluru on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

HDK moves HC seeking to quash FIR

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, along with his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy and associate Suresh Babu, has approached the Karnataka High Court to request the dismissal of a First Information Report (FIR) filed by the Bengaluru police.

The petition, submitted by Kumaraswamy and his associates, contends that Inspector General of Police M Chandrashekhar's complaint was "malafide" and driven by "political motives."

In his complaint, Chandrashekhar charged that Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister Kumaraswamy, had threatened him — a government servant — from discharging his duties.

The complainant noted that he was heading the Special Investigation Team probing a mining case in which Kumaraswamy is an accused.

The probe against Kumaraswamy pertains to allegations that he illegally approved a 550-acre mining lease to Sri Sai Venkateswara Minerals in Ballari in violation of the law.

"The SIT had written to His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka, seeking sanction for prosecution against the accused Sh HD Kumaraswamy on 21/11/2023," Chandrashekhar said in his complaint lodged at Sanjay Nagar police station. *—PTI*

CONDUCTOR TO THE RESCUE

BMTC driver dies of heart attack on duty

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

A 40-year-old BMTC bus driver died of a heart attack while driving the vehicle in the city on Wednesday, officials said.

The incident occurred at 11am while the bus was en route from Nelamangala to Dasanapura.

A video of the incident shows that after the driver collapsed from the heart attack, the bus brushed past another Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus. The conductor quickly jumped into the driver's seat and took control of the vehicle.

According to BMTC officials, Kiran Kumar was operating vehicle number KA 57 F-4007 on route 256 M/1, during its final trip from Nelamangala to Dasanapura.

While on duty, Kumar suffered a heart attack and collapsed. In a courageous act, the conductor, Obalesh, immediately brought the vehicle to a safe halt, ensuring the safety of all passengers and preventing any accident.

Subsequently, Obalesh rushed Kumar to the nearby hospital, where doctors, after examination, confirmed that the driver had succumbed to a heart attack.

"The corporation prays for the peace of his soul. Senior officials offered their sympathies and providing an ex-gratia payment to help with final rites," BMTC said. *—PTI*

The conductor quickly jumped into the driver's seat and took control of the BMTC bus **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB/X@NBANGALOREPOST**

10-year-old boy molests City-based influencer

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

A Bengaluru-based influencer has alleged that she was molested by a 10-year-old minor boy while walking down a street in BTM Layout on Tuesday. When the influencer was recording a video blog on her way back from work, she was approached by a boy riding a bicycle. She described how the boy initially rode in the same direction as her but then made a U-turn upon seeing her. He greeted her with a 'hi' and mimicked her speech before groping her.

"This has never happened to me, so I feel really bad," she shared on Instagram. When the boy tried to flee, locals intervened, but some residents urged the woman to forgive him as he was a child. After the boy was caught, he claimed he had lost his balance and accidentally brushed past her. However, it was only after she showed the video evidence that the situation became clear.

DCP South Sarah Fatima said they had apprehended the accused and are investigating the case. *—PTI*

- After the boy was caught, he claimed he had lost his balance and accidentally brushed past her. Only after she showed the video evidence that the situation became clear

Congratulations on your victory, @realDonaldTrump! Wishing you success in your second term as US President. All the best to @KamalaHarris in her future endeavours

-Rahul Gandhi,
Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

I congratulate Donald Trump on his victory in the US Presidential Elections and wish him success as he prepares to lead his country forward. His first tenure marked significant strengthening of the Indo-US partnership

-N Chandrababu Naidu,
Andhra Pradesh CM

If there is one person on Earth who stands as the embodiment of unbreakable tenacity, unshakeable grit, relentless determination and courage to stay true to his beliefs, it is Trump. Congratulations to the 47th POTUS-elect

-Gautam Adani,
Adani Group Chairperson

How Trump's era could affect India-US ties

Experts say that in his 'America First' agenda, Donald Trump could tighten H-1B visa rules

Strategic cooperation and personal camaraderie have marked Trump and Modi's relationship ***PHOTO: FILE PIC***

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

With Donald Trump all set to become US president, Indian exporters may face high customs duties for goods like automobiles, textiles and pharmaceuticals if the new US administration decides to pursue the 'America First' agenda, opined trade experts.

Experts also said that Trump could also tighten H-1B visa rules, impacting costs and growth for Indian IT firms.

Over 80 per cent of India's IT export earnings come from the US, making it vulnerable to changes in visa policies.

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said that Trump may extend tariffs beyond China to include India and other countries.

Trump had earlier called India a "large tariff abuser" and in October 2020 labelled India as the 'tariff king'.

However, a tougher US stance on China could create new opportunities for Indian exporters, he added. The bilateral trade in goods between the two countries stood at USD 120 billion in 2023-24 as against USD 129.4 billion in 2022-23.

India could face higher tariffs on exports like textiles, chemicals, pharma and auto/ engineering products, Sen said. Imports from the US also grew to USD 42.2 billion last fiscal from USD 35.8 billion in 2019-20. On the other hand, trade in services between the two nations expanded from USD 54.1 billion in 2018 to an estimated USD 70.5 billion in 2024, a 30.3 rise.

India is also a key destination for American businesses such as professional, scientific, and technical services, manufacturing, and IT. Washington is the third largest investor. India received USD 66.7 billion between April 2000 and June 2024. India buys military equipment and Boeings worth billions of dollars from the US and conducts its over 90 per cent global trade in US Dollars.

"The US firms like Google, Facebook gather Terabytes of data every day and earn billions of advertising dollars every year from India. Amazon which had to withdraw from China, is the biggest online retailer in India. The US earns dollars from India from various engagements and not just trade," Srivastava said. *—PTI*

Kamala will make a comeback, she is a fighter, says her family in Tamil Nadu

Although Kamala Harris has been defeated by Donald Trump in the US Presidential election, she will make a comeback as she is a fighter, said residents of Thulasendrapuram, the village of her maternal ancestors, on Wednesday. Since morning, locals were glued to television screens, monitoring election results, and many checked trends on media websites. Several residents also visited the Sri Dharma Sastha Perumal temple to pray for Harris's victory. However, as the day progressed, it became pretty clear that it was Trump who was leading. J Sudhakar, DMK Tiruvarur district representative and Thulasendrapuram village leader, told PTI: "We were hoping for her victory and had planned celebrations bigger than Deepavali." Other villagers also shared similar sentiments, expressing confidence that Harris would continue her journey as a fighter and someday become the US president, even if it didn't happen this time.

Trump highly unpredictable, say ex-Indian diplomats

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

As Donald Trump registered a historic comeback in the US presidential election, many former Indian diplomats on Wednesday concurred that the India-US ties will "continue to grow" from strength to strength, even as some of them cautioned that Trump is "highly unpredictable" and New Delhi will have to "wait and watch" to see what position he adopts going forward.

The former ambassadors of India, PTI spoke to also said the Russia-Ukraine war will be "high on his agenda" and that Trump may even make a statement on this conflict before the formal inauguration in January next year.

- The former ambassadors of India said the Russia-Ukraine war will be on his agenda and that he may even make a statement on this conflict before the inauguration in January

Venu Rajamony, who served as India's envoy to the Netherlands from 2017 to 2020, said India must "carefully and consciously" move forward, even as "we do everything possible" to strengthen the relationship.

Reminding that for Trump it is "always 'America First'", the former envoy cautioned that he will sort of go ahead and do what he thinks is best for the American interest and New Delhi must be "prepared for the ups and downs in the relationship" whether on trade or other issues where India disagrees with the US.

Rajamony, currently working as a professor of diplomatic practice at O P Jindal Global University, also said that Trump has a number of foreign policy issues on his table, even more important is the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and similarly what is happening in Gaza.

Only then the question of China and what kind of relationship the US develops under Trump, with China, whether it is one of cooperation or competition or whether it is something that combines both, "all that needs to be seen", he said.

"He is highly unpredictable. So, we will have to wait and watch to see what position he adopts, he has to formulate his foreign policy team and there is still time for him till January to assume office," the former diplomat said. *—PTI*

Kite artist Jagmohan Kanojia poses with his kites of PM Narendra Modi and US president-elect Donald Trump, in Amritsar on Wednesday ***PHOTO: ANI***

2 FIRs against actor Mithun for 'hate' speech

KOLKATA, 6 NOV

Two FIRs have been lodged against actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty for allegedly making provocative statements during a BJP event in Salt Lake area near Kolkata last month, police said on Wednesday. The complaints pertain to Chakraborty's speech on 27 October at the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) in Salt Lake, during a BJP programme attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was in Kolkata to launch the party's West Bengal membership drive. *—PTI*

CPI(M) drags INDIA bloc to EC over party symbol

RANCHI, 6 NOV

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against INDIA bloc partners in Jharkhand for allegedly using the party's symbol for campaigning. In its complaint, the party said the CPI(M) was not a part of the INDIA bloc in the eastern state, and it was independently contesting nine seats in the election to the 81-member Assembly. *—PTI*

Encounter breaks out in J&K's Kupwara dist

SRINAGAR, 6 NOV

An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Wednesday. Based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants, a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces during the night in Margi area of Lolab in the north Kashmir district, they said. Officials said contact was established with the militants and a firefight began. Exchange of fire was going on and the operation is in progress, the officials added. *—PTI*

RELEASES MANIFESTO

Ajit's NCP vows to raise Ladki Bahin scheme financial aid

MUMBAI/ NAGPUR, 6 NOV

The NCP led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Wednesday unveiled its manifesto for the state assembly polls, promising to raise the amount of Ladki Bahin scheme's monthly financial assistance to Rs 2,100 from the present Rs 1,500.

For farmers, the party promised to raise the Shetkari Sanman Nidhi scheme amount from Rs 12,000 to Rs 15,000 per year.

NCP, which is fighting the elections from 52 constituencies, also unveiled constituency-specific manifestos for all the assembly seats it is contesting. The manifesto was unveiled separately by party president Ajit Pawar in Baramati, by its state unit president Sunil Tatkare in Mumbai, and working president Praful Patel in Gondia. NCP candidates and local leaders also released the poll manifestos in their respective constituencies.

The manifesto, which gives 11 promises, talks about increasing the old age pension from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,100 per month.

Although, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has a strong chance of winning the Nagpur South-West Assembly seat, it could be a close contest between him and his Congress rival Prafulla Gudhade Patil, whom the BJP leader trounced in 2014, they said.

PHOTO: PTI

BJP expels 40 functionaries for anti-party activities

BJP expelled 40 local-level functionaries for anti-party activities ahead of assembly elections. It include rebels who filed nominations against the party's or the ruling Mahayuti alliance's official candidates. BJP leader Shrikant Bharatiya's brother Tushar Bharatiya, a rebel candidate from Badnera assembly seat, was among those expelled. *—PTI*

₹558CR WORTH OF SEIZURES MADE IN M'RASHTRA, J'KHAND

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

The agencies under the Election Commission have seized Rs 558 crore worth of cash and freebies, including liquor, drugs and precious metals in the ongoing elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and the various bypolls.

Freebies accounted for more than 40 per cent of the total seizures, the Election Commission said on Wednesday. Operations in Maharashtra alone has yielded about Rs 280 crore since the announcement of elections, the poll body said on Wednesday.

Another Rs 158 crore worth of seizures have been made so far from Jharkhand, it said.

Combined seizures in the two states mark a 3.5 times increase as compared to the assembly elections in 2019 when Maharashtra recorded seizures worth Rs 103.61 crore, while it was Rs 18.76 crore in Jharkhand.

Closer vigil is also being kept in the 110 Assembly constituencies in Maharashtra - and 91 seats Jharkhand -19 seats which are marked as 'expenditure sensitive'. *—PTI*

CM Hemant Soren during an election campaign in Ranchi ***PHOTO: PTI***

Jharkhand belongs to tribals, says Soren

CHAIBASA/ JAMSHEDPUR ,6 NOV

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said tribals will rule the state as it belonged to them. Soren, also the JMM executive president, slammed the BJP, claiming that no Hindu is in danger in the state but the opposition party is only trying to create conflict with its Hindu-Muslim narratives. "We fought for a separate Jharkhand state, and we will fight to secure our rights as well. Tribals will rule here as Jharkhand belonged to tribals," he said while addressing a public meeting at Chotanagra in West Singhbhum district on Tuesday.

According to the 2011 Census, Jharkhand has a total population of 32,988,134. Of them, 26.21 per cent (8,645,042) are tribals. Except for Raghubar Das, all chief ministers of the state, which was created in 2000, belonged to tribal communities.

Shiv Shankar Singh, who recently resigned from BJP's primary membership in protest against the party's decision to field a candidate from an influential family in Jamshedpur East, said he would contest as an Independent candidate in the upcoming Assembly elections. He also criticised BJP for its "Pariwarvad" (dynastic politics).

Soren's former aide gets death threat

Mandal Murmu, one of the proposers of Soren's nomination from Barhait assembly constituency, received a life threat on social media after joining the BJP, following which one person was detained on Wednesday, police said.

"Murmu was allegedly given a life threat on a social media platform. We have detained a person in this regard and interrogation is underway," Dumka Superintendent of Police (SP) Pitambar Singh Kherwar told PTI. *—PTI*

JAISHANKAR MEETS OZ PM, LAUDS 'DEEPENING' TIES

CANBERRA, 6 NOV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra and thanked him for the deepening India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"Delighted to call on PM Anthony Albanese in Canberra today. Conveyed warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Value his guidance for deepening India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Jaishankar posted on X on Wednesday.

The Australian PM also appreciated the "growing relationship" between the two countries.

"Our growing relationship with India matters to Australia. Great to meet with External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar today in Canberra," Albanese posted on X.

Earlier in the day, the foreign minister interacted with embers of Australia–India Parliamentary Friendship Group. "Happy to interact with members of Australia–India Parliamentary Friendship Group. Appreciate their warm sentiments for stronger political, economic and people-to-people ties with India," he stated.

Jaishankar also met New Zealand Deputy PM and discussed the issues of education, technology. *—ANI*

LANDMARK DECISION

J&K parties hail resolution

PHOTO: PTI

SRINAGAR, 6 NOV

Political parties in the Kashmir valley on Wednesday welcomed the resolution passed in the assembly seeking a dialogue between the Centre and elected representatives for the restoration of special status of the erstwhile state.

"This resolution is historic and I congratulate the members of the House," CPI(M)'s MLA from Kulgam, M Y Tarigami said.

'Jai Shri Ram' chants reverberated in the Assembly amid ruckus over the passing of a resolution. Opposition BJP said it will not allow the proceedings of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to go on until a resolution asking the Centre to hold talks with the elected representatives from the region for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status was withdrawn.

Meanwhile, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for restoration of special status to the erstwhile state was a "half-hearted" effort which could have been written "in a better way". *—PTI*

Raid over black money sparks row ahead of bypoll in Kerala

PALAKKAD, 6 NOV

Amid heated campaigning for the upcoming Assembly bye-election in the Palakkad constituency, a midnight police raid at a hotel here on suspicion of the arrival of black money triggered an intense political row on Wednesday.

Around midnight, the police conducted searches, including in the hotel rooms where prominent women politicians from the Congress, such as Bindu Krishna and Shanimol Usman, were staying.

The Congress leadership, vehemently protesting the police action, alleged that it was a "midnight police drama" jointly orchestrated by the BJP and the CPI (M) due to their fear of a potential poll debacle.

As the issue sparked a major political row, the police later clarified that 12 rooms in the hotel were searched, including those of leaders from all political parties. *—PTI*

CBI probing Rahul's citizenship, Delhi HC told

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Rahul Gandhi ***PHOTO: PTI***

The Delhi High Court was informed on Wednesday that a CBI probe had been initiated into Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship in connection with a PIL being heard by the Allahabad High Court .

When petitioner S Vignesh Shishir, a Karnataka BJP worker, said he had moved a PIL in the Allahabad High Court, a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said it didn't want any conflicting orders to be passed.

The bench said there could be two parallel petitions on the same cause of action and permitted Shishir to file an affidavit on the relevant developments following his PIL in the Allahabad High Court.

The matter came before the Delhi High Court after a plea filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, who sought directions to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to decide his representation seeking cancellation of Gandhi's Indian citizenship.

Swamy, in his plea, also sought a direction to the MHA to furnish a status report on the representation filed by him against Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

While Swamy maintained that the matter before the Allahabad High Court had nothing to do with his case, and the prayers were totally different, Shishir claimed Swamy's plea had led to multiplicity and parallel proceedings.

The court asked Shishir to file an application for impleadment in the petition before it and listed the matter on 6 December. *—PTI*

A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) recently discovered a new species of orchid in Arunachal Pradesh's Itanagar. Gastrodia Lohitensis, the leafless orchid flourishes without sunlight, relying on fungi in leaf litter for nutrients **PHOTO: X**

Married woman alleges fake profile on BharatMatrimony

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

BharatMatrimony, a popular Indian matchmaking platform, faces criticism after a married woman's photo appeared on a fake profile within its elite subscription service. Swati Mukund, who has over 200,000 followers on Instagram, publicly denounced the platform, dubbing it a "BharatMatrimony Scam." In her viral video, which has garnered over a million views, Mukund clarified that she didn't meet her husband through the app, cautioning users to be vigilant. "More acrimony than matrimony, I guess!" she captioned, showing her husband alongside her to dispel claims they met on BharatMatrimony. A screenshot displayed her photo on the profile of "Nithya Raja Sekar," a 35-year-old BTech graduate from Chennai tagged as "Newly Joined." Mukund questioned BharatMatrimony's elite service, stating, "They charge hefty fees and claim to carefully curate profiles, but clearly, that's not the case."—*Agencies*

16-year-old stabbed to death in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

A 16-year-old boy died after being stabbed allegedly by a group of boys, police confirmed on Wednesday. Police officials received information around 8.30am that a resident of Nehru Vihar, Mustafabad was stabbed by a group of people. According to police, the minor was taken to the Jag Pravesh Hospital where he succumbed to injuries and declared dead. A case has been registered at the Dayalpur Police station and the police have launched an investigation to identify and nab the accused. Further details on the case are awaited. Earlier on 1 November, a 38-year-old man was stabbed to death by a group of people in Hastsal Road area of West Delhi. The victim, identified as Gagan Oberoi, was a property dealer, police said. The victim was taken to the Mata Chanan Devi Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries due to excessive blood loss. —***ANI***

Kerala announces financial aid to kin of temple fire

T'PURAM, 6 NOV

The Kerala government on Wednesday announced financial assistance to the kin of those who died in the recent Kasaragod temple tragedy and in the Shoranur train accident. A cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, decided to provide Rs four lakh each to the families of four victims who had succumbed to the burns they sustained in the temple festival firecracker accident in Kasaragod district, a CMO statement said. Four people died and as many as 154 people were injured when firecrackers stored in the vicinity exploded at Anjoottanbalam Veererkavu temple near Neeleswaram on 28 October. A solatium of Rs three lakh each would be given to the kin of four sanitary workers who died in a tragic train accident near Shoranur Railway Station on November 2, the statement said. Four workers, including two women, from Tamil Nadu, died when the Thiruvananthapuram-bound Kerala Express hit them while they were engaged in clearing garbage from the railway track. —***PTI***

Can't bulldoze overnight: SC slams UP, issues directions

SC asks UP govt to pay Rs 25L to man whose house was razed

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government for an "illegal" demolition in 2019 while issuing directions to all states and union territories (UT) on the procedure to be followed during road widening and removal of encroachments.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also directed the UP government to pay Rs 25 lakh compensation to the man whose house was razed in 2019 for a road widening project.

"You can't come with bulldozers and demolish the constructions overnight. You don't give the family, time to vacate. What about the household articles inside the house?" the bench asked the counsel representing the UP government.

The bench elaborated on the steps that a state or its instrumentality must undertake before taking action in pursuance to a road-widening project. The top court accordingly asked the states to ascertain the existing width of the road in terms of records or maps and carry out a survey, which would allow ascertaining the encroachments, if any, on the road.

Welcoming the Supreme Court directive, Samajwadi Party and Congress attacked the state government for misusing bulldozers **PHOTO: X**

In a scenario of the objection being rejected, a reasonable notice would be furnished to the person against whom the adverse action was proposed, to remove the encroachment, it added.

The bench further underlined if the person concerned failed to comply with it, the competent authority would take steps to remove the encroachment unless restrained by an order of the competent authority or the court.

In case an encroachment was found, the top court said, the state must issue a notice to the encroacher to remove it and if the correctness and validity of the notice was objected to, the state would issue a "speaking order" keeping in mind the principles of natural justice.

In a case where the existing width of the road, including the state land adjoining it, was not sufficient to accommodate the road widening, the state would take steps to acquire its land in accordance with law before undertaking the exercise.

Welcoming the Supreme Court directive Samajwadi Party and Congress attacked the state government for "misusing bulldozers".

The opposition parties said officials are taking such action to get themselves "in good books of the government". —*PTI*

BE ALERT!

Caller ID can be easily spoofed: Govt warns officials

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

A cyber security advisory has cautioned government officials against trusting the caller ID information that pops up while receiving a phone call, following a spurt in "vishing" attacks aimed at compromising confidential personal information and gaining unauthorised access to official systems.

"Attackers may impersonate trusted entities, such as senior government officials, law enforcement agencies, or technical support personnel," the advisory issued recently by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) says.

It has specified that attackers "manipulate" caller ID information to make a call appear as if it is coming from a "legitimate government number".

The communication sent to multiple government departments and ministries has been accessed by PTI. It says it was issued as "in recent months, there has been an increase in vishing attacks targeting government officials to compromise confidential information and gain unauthorised access to official systems".

PHOTO: PTI

"Vishing" or voice-phishing is a social engineering attack where scamsters use phone calls or voice messages to manipulate individuals to share sensitive information, such as log-in credentials, personal information and financial details.

It has also asked officials to mandatorily verify the caller's identity through government channels before sharing sensitive information. —*PTI*

FOLLOWING HEMA REPORT

Malayalam actor Nivin Pauly gets clean-chit in rape charges

KOCHI, 6 NOV

Malayalam actor Nivin Pauly has been cleared of charges in a sexual assault case due to insufficient evidence. The case was filed two months ago after a woman from Ernakulam alleged that Nivin assaulted her at a Dubai hotel last year, promising her a role in a film. Her complaint named six individuals, including Nivin and a producer, and led to an FIR listing Nivin as the sixth accused.

Upon investigation, officials found Nivin was not at the specified location during the alleged incident. The Deputy Superintendent of Police submitted a report to the Kothamangalam Magistrate Court, confirming Nivin's name was removed from the list of suspects, though the investigation continues for the others involved.

PHOTO: X

- The woman had also alleged harassment by Nivin's PR team, accusing them of spreading false information to discredit her. Nivin denied the accusations, calling them "entirely untrue" in a social media statement

The woman had also alleged harassment by Nivin's PR team, accusing them of spreading false information to discredit her. Nivin denied the accusations, calling them "entirely untrue" in a social media statement, where he expressed his determination to disprove the claims.

The complaint came amid revelations from Kerala's Justice Hema Committee report, which highlighted discrimination and exploitation of women in the Malayalam film industry. Several prominent figures were implicated, including AMMA's former general secretary and other well-known actors and filmmakers. —*Agencies*

Ensure peace is maintained: amid festive rush: Cal HC

KOLKATA, 6 NOV

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed the West Bengal government to take all necessary steps to ensure that peace is maintained in all localities during the festive season.

The court said that it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that people celebrate the festival with the usual fervour without any hindrance.

A division bench presided by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam passed the direction during the hearing of a petition by Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari alleging that a day after Kali Puja, tension took place in the heart of the city in Rajabazar and Narkeldanga area with a large mob attacking some sections of people.

23 peoplle are held in connection with the incident. —*PTI*

2 scribes held for video on vandalism

West Bengal Police arrested two journalists of a vernacular news portal after they posted a video — allegedly filmed by them — showing vandalism at a Kali Puja pandal in North 24 Parganas district, an officer said on Wednesday. Police lodged a suo moto case in this connection and arrested the duo following a search operation at the portal's office in Kaikhali area on Tuesday afternoon, he said. —*PTI*

MP ELEPHANT DEATHS: OFFICIALS TO BE SENT FOR TRAINING

INDORE, 6 NOV

Forest officials from Madhya Pradesh will be sent for training in other states having a high population of the pachyderms, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said following the death of 10 elephants in MP's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR).

The move comes as part of the MP government's efforts to enhance measures for the protection of jumbos. On 29 October, four wild elephants were found dead in Sankhani and Bakeli under the Khalil range of the BTR in Umaria district, while four died on 30 October and two on 31 October.

Neurotoxin cyclopiazonic acid was found in the visceras of the 10 elephants but it was not a case of `poisoning', a senior official said. —*PTI*

PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

A young camel herder at the Pushkar Camel Fair, in Pushkar, Rajasthan, on Wednesday. The fair will take place from 8 -16 November **PHOTO: PTI**

ASSAM MAN HELD FOR REPEATEDLY RAPING MINOR GIRL

GUWAHATI, 6 NOV

A 11-year-old girl was repeatedly raped over several months by her neighbour in Guwahati, who has been arrested, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in the Pandu area of the city. The 46-year-old neighbour was known to the family, Jalukbari police station Officer-in-Charge Ritujyoti Nath told PTI.

"The girl was raped yesterday also. Then she told everything to her mother. She claimed that she was repeatedly raped by the accused for several months and was threatened," he added.

Meanwhile, the medical examination of the minor however was conducted on Tuesday night, Nath said on Wednesday. —*PTI*

- The incident took place in the Pandu area of the city. The 46-year-old neighbour was known to the family, Jalukbari police station Officer-in-Charge Ritujyoti Nath told PTI.

15 ride auto in UP, crash kills 11

HARDOI, 6 NOV

Eleven people, including six women and three children, were killed while four others were injured on Wednesday after a truck hit an auto-rickshaw in the Bilgram area here, police said.

A senior police officer said the accident took place when the truck crashed into the auto in a bid to avoid hitting a motorcycle.

According to police, the deceased have been identified as Madhuri, 25, Sunita, 28, Neelam, 30, Anshi ,8, Satyam Kushwaha, 18, Radha, 21, Nirmala, 40, Vimlesh, 20, Pranshu, 1, Roshni, 36, and Vanshika 2.

There were 15 passengers in the auto, which was badly damaged in the crash, police said.

The police are on the lookout for driver who is absconding **PHOTO: PTI**

"The families of those killed have been contacted. The police have impounded the DCM (truck) involved in the accident," Jadaun said.

On the auto carrying a large number of passengers, the officer said the police are on the lookout for its driver who is absconding ever since the accident. —*PTI*

HOPE SHE WILL GET PADMA VIBHUSHAN: SINGER SINHA'S SON

PATNA, 6 NOV

Renowned singer Sharda Sinha's son, Anshuman, on Thursday expressed his wish for his late mother to be considered posthumously for the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country. "She did a lot and her fame extended well beyond Bihar, and even the country. We do not have any grievances or demands as such. But we have always felt that she should have got Padma Vibhushan". will be cremated in Patna with full state honours on Thursday, an official said.

Sinha's mortal remains have been kept at her Rajendra Nagar house (near Kankarbagh) in Patna where her fans and well wishers will pay their last respects to the popular folk singer.

Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced cremation with full state honours for Sinha, a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. Union Minister JP Nadda is also expected to visit Sinha's house on Thursday evening. —*PTI*

'DRILL, BABY, DRILL'

Trump 2. 0 will deepen climate crisis: Experts

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Republican candidate Donald Trump's election as the President of the United States is a profound blow to global climate justice and his disregard for international agreements and refusal to provide climate finance will deepen the crisis, international policy experts said on Wednesday.

Sunita Narain, the director general of Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment, said Trump winning the White House race is a "big setback" for global climate efforts, especially if he rolls back critical domestic policies like the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

She said the US has historically fallen short in global climate efforts, particularly on financing support for vulnerable countries, decarbonisation and financial commitments to the developing world, and Trump's presidency will make matters even worse.

Students of Gurukul School of Art paint portraits of Donald Trump at Lalbaug in Mumbai, on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Trump emphasised his support for increasing oil and gas production, with "Drill, baby, drill" as a key slogan. He dismissed climate change concerns entirely. Rolling back the IRA and expanding oil production would be extremely harmful for international climate efforts, the climate policy expert said.

Harjeet Singh, climate activist and Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said Trump's victory is a profound blow to global climate justice and an alarming escalation of climate risk for the world's most vulnerable communities. —*PTI*

CBSE cancels affiliation to 21 schools, 6 downgraded

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

In a crackdown on 'dummy' admissions, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday withdrew affiliation of 21 schools and downgraded six schools from senior secondary to secondary level, officials said.

The move comes following a surprise inspection at the schools in Rajasthan and Delhi in September. "The practice of dummy or non-attending admissions contradicts the core mission of school education, compromising students' foundational growth. To address this issue, we are taking a decisive action to combat the proliferation of dummy schools and send a clear message to all affiliated institutions to resist the lure of accepting dummy or non-attending admissions," CBSE Secretary Himanshu Gupta said.

He said the vital observations were communicated as a report to the respective schools.

Of the 21 schools whose affiliation has been withdrawn, 16 are in Delhi while five of them are in Rajasthan's coaching hubs -- Kota and Sika. —*PTI*

SWIGGY IPO SUBSCRIBED 12% ON 1ST DAY OF OFFER

Valuation of Swiggy has been pegged at about Rs 95,000 cr

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

The initial public offer of food delivery and quick-commerce major Swiggy Ltd subscribed 12 per cent on the first day of the share sale on Wednesday.

The initial share sale received bids for 1,89,80,620 shares against 16,01,09,703 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE.

The quota for retail individual investors (RIIs) received 54 per cent subscription while the non-institutional investors part got subscribed 6 per cent.

Swiggy on Tuesday said it has collected Rs 5,085 crore from anchor investors.

Bengaluru-based company's shares are available for public subscription in the price range of Rs 371 to Rs 390 during 6-8 November.

Quota for retail individual investors (RIIs) received 54 per cent subscription while the non-institutional investors part got subscribed 6% ***PHOTO: X***

The company is aiming to garner Rs 11,327 crore from the IPO, which has a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,499 crore along with an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs 6,828 crore.

The valuation of Swiggy has been pegged at about USD 11.3 billion (about Rs 95,000 crore) at the upper price band. Rival Zomato, which went public in July 2021, has a market valuation of Rs 2.25 lakh crore.

- Bengaluru-based company's shares are available for public subscription in the price range of Rs 371 to Rs 390 during 6-8 November

Going by the draft papers, the company plans to utilise proceeds from the fresh issue for investing in technology and cloud infrastructure; brand marketing and business promotion; and debt payment; and funds will also be allocated for inorganic and general corporate purpose. *—PTI*

INDIA-US TIES

US results won't hit Indian IT sector: Nasscom

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

India and the US have maintained strong ties in strategic areas of cooperation and technology over the years, and that focus is expected to continue, Sindhu Gangadharan, the new chairperson of IT industry association Nasscom, said on Wednesday.

The comment assumes significance as there have been broad concerns about the implications of the US presidential election for over USD 250B Indian outsourcing industry, as well as on employment-based immigration.

On how she sees the outcome of the US elections impacting the Indian outsourcing industry, Gangadharan said, "I think India and the US have always focused on strategic areas of cooperation, when it comes to tech... I think there's no doubt that the cooperation has been extremely strong over the last years."

"So no matter what the outcome of the US election will be, I think there's no way

PHOTO: PTI

around leveraging the phenomenal tech prowess that India has to offer... not just for the US, but the rest of the world," she added.

India has scripted a strong Global Capability Centre (GCC) story, and the number of such centres being set up and expanded are "mind-boggling", Gangadharan said.

"Today, if I look at the number of GCCs in 2024 that have come in from the US, and really look at not just setting up from scratch, but also expanding the set-ups that they have, it has been mind-boggling to see those number of conversations that we have had. So no matter what the outcome of the elections, that is going to continue," she said. *—PTI*

IFC commits $400M for green cause, women

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has committed USD 400M to help expand access to finance for customers opting to buy EVs and energy efficient consumer goods, as well as to support women-owned microenterprises. The support is part of the USD 1B fundraising exercise by Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL). The funding aims to increase competitiveness in the climate finance market, support the country's climate goals and promote financial inclusion, a joint statement said on Wednesday. *—PTI*

Rubicon, 3 others get SEBI nod to float IPOs

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Four companies, including pharmaceutical formulation firm Rubicon Research and TPG Capital-backed Sai Life Sciences, have received Sebi's go-ahead to raise at least Rs 3,000 crore collectively through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), an update with the markets regulator revealed on Wednesday. The other two firms that obtained the clearance are yarn manufacturer Sanathan Textiles and auto components maker Metalman Auto. The four companies, which filed their draft IPO papers during July and August, obtained the regulator's observations on October 31, the update revealed. In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observations means its go-ahead to float public issues. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SAP

SAP plans major investment & hiring in India: CEO

BENGALURU, 6 NOV

SAP will "over proportionally" invest and hire in India in the coming years, its CEO Christian Klein said on Wednesday amid the German software maker's supervisory and executive board visit to Bengaluru. India is among the top-10 markets for SAP globally, and the company expects the market here to grow "heavily and faster" than some of its top markets. India market is set to climb further up the chart, Klein said. Given the "rapid growth" in India, a large share of SAP investments in R&D and operations will be ploughed here, Klein said but did not quantify the investments. SAP has a business footprint across 130 countries, and India is demonstrating the fastest growth rate. *—PTI*

Titan shares down 4% after Q2 earnings

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Shares of jewellery retailer and watchmaker Titan fell by nearly 4 per cent on Wednesday morning after the firm reported a 23 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 704 crore for the second quarter ended on September 2024. The stock declined 3.69 per cent to Rs 3,113.65 on the BSE. At the NSE, it went lower by 3.59 per cent to Rs 3,114. The stock also emerged as the biggest laggard among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty firms during the morning trade. The broader markets were trading firm with the BSE Sensex climbing 277 points to 79,753.63 and the Nifty quoting 102 points higher at 24,314.65. The company posted a net profit of Rs 916 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Titan on Tuesday. However, its sales were up 25.82 per cent to Rs 13,473 crore during the quarter under review. It was Rs 10,708 crore for the corresponding quarter. Total expenses of Titan increased 20.23 per cent to Rs 13,709 crore in the June quarter. *—PTI*

RBI Guv rules out rate cut, says economy 'positive'

MUMBAI, 6 NOV

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said changing the monetary policy stance to "neutral" does not mean a rate cut in the central bank's next policy announcement.

"It should not be assumed that we have done this, so the next step is a rate cut. A change in stance doesn't mean that the next step is a rate cut, in the very next meeting. It's not so," Das said. He was speaking at the BFSI Insight summit in a fireside chat with a business daily.

The RBI has not changed interest rates for nearly two years but has adopted a neutral stance in its policy state-

Shaktikanta Das ***PHOTO: PTI***

ment in October.

This has sparked speculation of a likely rate cut in the next policy.

The next course of action has to be taken very carefully, Das said, hinting at significant upside risks to inflation expectations. Significant risks, according to the RBI, include continuing geopolitical conflicts, geo-economic fragmentation, climate and weather-related risks, and commodity prices going up.

Das also said that the incoming data on economic growth is "mixed", but the positive factors outweigh the negative ones.

He stressed that the underlying economic activity by and large remains strong. "Data which is coming in is mixed, but the positives outweigh the negatives and by and large, underlying activities remain strong," Das said.

It can be noted that many analysts have been voicing concerns about growth, especially after official data showed growth slowing to a 15-quarter low of 6.7 per cent in the first quarter of FY25. *—Agencies*

FSSAI TO HOLD MEET ON 7-8 NOV ON FOOD SAFETY

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will hold meeting of its Central Advisory Committee (CAC) on 7-8 November to discuss food safety issues on e-commerce platforms among others challenges. The meeting, to be held under the chairmanship of FSSAI's CEO G Kamala Vardhana Rao, will see participation of food commissioners from all states/Union Territories or their representatives.

The CAC will also discuss measures to be adopted to ensure sale of quality food products on e-commerce platforms, they said.

Committee will discuss this issue amid reports of sale of food products expiry on e-commerce platforms. *—PTI*

Vistara merger: AI boosts resources

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Air India has deployed additional resources, including help desk kiosks, at touch points and airports across the country to ensure a smooth experience for Vistara passengers post its upcoming merger with the airline next week, an official said on Wednesday.

Full-service carriers Air India and Vistara – a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines – are set to be merged on November 11. However, the routes and schedule operated by Vistara and the Vistara in-flight experience will remain the same after the merger. Also, Vistara aircraft will be identified by a special four-digit Air India code beginning with the digit '2'.

The official in the know said Air India deployed additional resources across touch points in India, including help desk kiosks, at the curbside before terminal entry at hubs and metro city airports.

There will be "customer support staff wearing 'How may I assist you?' Air India x Vistara branded T-shirts for support", the official added.

In due course, Vistara airport ticketing offices and check-in terminals will become that of Air India.

Over the last few months, 2,70,000 customers who had booked Vistara flights have been migrated to Air India, and more than 4.5M Vistara

PHOTO: PTI

- Over the last few months, 2,70,000 customers who had booked Vistara flights have been migrated to Air India, and more than 4.5M Vistara loyalty programme members are being migrated to Air India's loyalty programme

loyalty programme members are being migrated to Air India's loyalty programme.

There are concerns in certain quarters on whether Vistara passengers will continue to get the same services post-merger as Air India, which is in the transformation phase, has been facing certain service issues in recent times.

The Tata Group-owned Air India has emphasised that the Vistara experience will remain post-merger.

The integrated entity will have a fleet of more than 200 planes, offering connectivity to 90 domestic and international destinations. *—PTI*

This increase reflects a sharp and accelerated rate of growth in the sector, surpassing its long-run average of 54.1 ***PHOTO: X***

Services Index hits 58.5, growth fastest in 26 mts

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

India's services sector witnessed a robust performance in October, as the Service PMI index surged to 58.5, up from a 10-month low of 57.7 in September, revealed the HSBC India Service PMI compiled by S&P Global.

This increase reflects a sharp and accelerated rate of growth in the sector, surpassing its long-run average of 54.1. "Rising from 57.7 in September to 58.5 in October, the headline figure was consistent with a sharp and accelerated rate of growth that outpaced its long-run average," the report said.

The index highlights that strong sales pipelines, along with high demand, contributed significantly to the expansion in business activity, as a month of notable recovery for India's services economy.

One of the report's key findings was the sharp expansion in services employment, which grew at the fastest rate in 26 months.

The report attributed this increase in hiring to positive sales developments and optimism among businesses regarding near-term growth. Firms added new employees at the highest rate in over two years, driven by expectations of sustained demand. *—ANI*

Home-cooked meals become dearer in October

MUMBAI, 6 NOV

Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian home-cooked meals became costlier in October due to a pick up in vegetable prices, a report said on Wednesday.

The cost of a vegetarian thali increased by 20 per cent to Rs 33.3 per plate compared to the year-ago period and was also up from Rs 31.3 in September primarily due to the surge in vegetable prices, a division of rating agency Crisil said.

The monthly 'roti rice rate' report said onion prices were up 46 per cent on year in October, while potato prices were up 51 per cent primarily due to the continuing rains, which led to lower arrivals and also impacted harvests in Maharashtra and Karnataka, it said.

The report said vegetable prices have a 40 per cent weightage in the overall thali cost and hence fluctuations impacted the overall costs.

In the case of a non-vegetarian thali, a 9 per cent decline in broiler prices which accounts for half of the thali cost led to a relatively slower uptick in costs, the report said.

A home-made non-veg thali cost Rs 61.6 in October as against Rs 59.3 in the month-ago period and Rs 58.6 in the year-ago period, the report said.

Vegetable prices, which account for 22 per cent of the non-veg thali costs, also influenced the overall non-veg thali cost, it said. *—PTI*

8 states keep ₹2L cr to woo women voters

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

The Direct Benefit transfer amounts to Women through various schemes have crossed the Rs 2 lakh-crore mark across eight states, said a report by the State Bank of India.

As the states gear up for elections, "in a bid to woo women voters in the elections, all parties have announced women-centric schemes that give direct cash transfer of Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 per month", it said.

The report highlighted that across eight states, at total of Rs 2.11 lakh crore was being allocated for these schemes. This amounts to about 3 to 11 per cent of the respective states' revenue receipts.

Under Gruha Lakshmi scheme of Karnataka, the state government gives Rs 2,000 per month to the female head of the family. The state has set aside Rs 28,608 crore for the scheme.

The Mukhya Mantri Mazhi Ladki Bahin Yojana of Maharashtra provides for Rs 1,500 per month to eligible women aged 21–60 years. The government has allocated Rs 46,000 crore for this programme.

The Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana of Madhya Pradesh has a budget of Rs 18,984 crore. This scheme offers Rs 1,250 per month to eligible women.

In Odisha, the Subhadra Yojana scheme has a provision for Rs 50,000 over a five-year period to eligible women aged 21–60 years. The state has set aside Rs 10,000 crore for this. *—ANI*

'THUNDEROUS SILENCE'

Tata denied talk on Mistry's split 'plot'

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Ratan Tata's 'no comments' was more 'thunderous' than any statement when asked if he shared the apprehensions of some Tata group veterans who felt that Cyrus Mistry was trying to break up the conglomerate, said Thomas Mathew, the author of the biography of the late industrialist.

Tata had fully supported late Mistry as his successor in 2012, despite having second thoughts over the suitability of the latter at the end of the first year of 'parallel running' as Chairman designate and his replacement as Chairman of Tata Sons in 2016 was due to "an ethical and a moral issue", coupled with performance issue, Mathew said.

PHOTO: TATA TRUSTS

In the biography "Ratan Tata A Life", some Tata group veterans have been quoted airing their apprehensions about Mistry trying to break up the salt-to-software conglomerate based on his style of functioning as the Chairman and the past record of the Shaprooji Pallonji (SP) Group's acquisition of shares in Tata Sons.

"There are two schools of thought. Some Tata veterans say the way SP Group accumulated the shares of Tata Sons did not forebode well," the former bureaucrat said when asked about the issue.

As per the book, the SP Group had increased its stake in Tata Sons gradually to around 18 per cent acquiring shares of the company that JRD had given to his siblings.

Attributing to the Tata veterans, Mathew said, "They say it (breaking up the Tata group) was not put to test but it could have been the motive."

When asked if Tata shared the same apprehensions of the Tata veterans, he said, "Mr Tata was a very reticent man, he was a very kind man. He would not comment on it. But to me, his absence of a comment is more thunderous than a comment... I said, 'Sir, do you think that is true?' 'No comments (Tata responded)'. I think that's more thunderous than him making any statement." *—PTI*

Vehicle sales up 32%, thanks to festivals

MUMBAI, 6 NOV

The total vehicle retail sales in India witnessed a 32 per cent on-year rise in October to 28.33 lakh units with all segments including two-wheelers and passenger vehicles registering strong growth, Federation of Automobile Dealers' Association (FADA) said on Wednesday.

The total vehicle retail sales in October 2023 stood at 21,43,929 units.

The strong growth in October this year was largely driven by the rural market, especially boosting two-wheeler and passenger vehicles sales, supported by increased minimum support price for Rabi crops, FADA said.

Passenger vehicle sales grew 32.38 per cent to 4,83,159 units, from 3,64,991 units retailed in October 2023, it stated. Two-

PHOTO: PTI

wheeler sales for the previous month were recorded at 20,65,095 units, as compared to 15,14,634 units in October 2023, registering a growth of 36.35 per cent. Three-wheeler sales were up 11.45 per cent year-on-year to 1,22,846 in October 2024. Tractor sales also increased 3.08 per cent, it said.

Festivals such as Navratri and Diwali boosted demand. Attractive offers, new launches, and availability led to a 36 per cent growth. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Pant climbs 5 places to 6th spot in ICC Test rankings

DUBAI, 6 NOV

India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant on Wednesday rose five places to sixth spot in the latest ICC Men's Test Batter Rankings following his strong performance in a losing cause in the third Test against New Zealand in Mumbai last week. Pant made the jump on the back of a pair of half-centuries during the Mumbai Test, in a sure sign that he is back to his best following a serious car accident, with the attacking left-hander now just one spot behind the career-best fifth position he first occupied in July 2022. The other Indian batter in the top Test batter's chart is young left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who dropped a rung to fourth. New Zealand secured a narrow 25-run victory in Mumbai to claim an unprecedented 3-0 series whitewash over India.—*PTI*

Warner named Sydney Thunder captain

SYDNEY, 6 NOV

David Warner was on Wednesday appointed as captain of Big Bash League side Sydney Thunder, returning to a leadership role in Australian cricket six years after being implicated in the ball-tampering scandal on a tour of South Africa. His lifetime leadership ban was overturned by Cricket Australia last month, paving the way for his captaincy before he bids goodbye to competitive cricket. He retired from the international game after Australia's elimination in the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean in June. Warner, 38, served a one-year game from the game for his involvement in the Newlands ball-tampering scandal in 2018 alongside Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft. Returning to a leadership role was a huge moment for Warner and the significance was not lost on the swashbuckling opener who regaled everyone with his explosive batting.—*PTI*

Dybala was left out of Argentina for WC qualifiers

DUBAI, 6 NOV

Roma striker Paulo Dybala was left out of the Argentina squad for its upcoming World Cup qualifiers, while goalkeeper Emiliano Martnez is back after a suspension. Coach Lionel Scaloni announced his squad on Tuesday, with the absence of Dybala and the inclusion of Valencia midfielder Enzo Barrenechea the two big surprises. Martnez was suspended by FIFA for the last two qualifiers for offensive behavior in two previous matches in September, but he will be available for the match at Paraguay on 14 Nov. and the home game against Peru five days later. Argentina leads South American World Cup qualifying with 22 points.—*PTI*

Ponting predicts 3-1 win for Australia

DUBAI, 6 NOV

Former captain Ricky Ponting reckons Australia will clinch the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 against India as the visitors will find taking 20 wickets in a Test as their "biggest challenge" in the absence of Shami. Australia are keen on ending their barren run in the Border-Gavaskar with India winning each of the four series since 2014-15, including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.However, with India suffering the historic low of a first-ever whitewash by 0-3 against New Zealand, Ponting believes the hosts have a better chance of defeating India now."Probably more so now (than before)," Ponting said about Australia's chances on the ICC Review Show.—*PTI*

Rahul's form in focus as India A gets the 'G' experience

Save Rahul, not a single player in India A lineup has played at MCG

MELBOURNE, 6 NOV

KL Rahul's batting number and current form will be keenly watched by the national selection committee as he gets ready to show his wares for India A against an Australia A line-up that will have seasoned Scott Boland in its ranks in the second unofficial Test match starting here on Thursday.

Save Rahul, there isn't a single player in the India A line-up who has featured in a match at the iconic MCG, where India is scheduled to play the Boxing Day Test from 26 December.

Having been dropped midway through the home Tests against New Zealand, the Indian selectors in consultation with the team management decided to send Rahul and reserve keeper Dhruv Jurel for the second 'A' Test before they link up with the senior team in Perth on January 11.

With Boland, one of Australia's senior reserve pacers steaming in and hitting the deck, it will be a stern test for the likes of Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ruturaj Gaikwad, B Sai Sudharsan, and Devdutt Padikkal, but Rahul will certainly get the maximum traction because of his chances of playing in the high-profile Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

KL Rahul at practice session PHOTO: PTI

During the practice session at the MCG, Rahul looked in good touch.

With Easwaran and skipper Gaikwad set to open, it is expected that Rahul will bat at No. 5 or 6 in the India A set-up, as that would be his batting position if he is selected in India playing XI at any point during the Test series.

There is a firm belief that when it comes to quality fast bowling in bouncy conditions, Rahul with hundreds at Lord's, Oval, Sydney, Centurion is way more equipped than domestic doyen Sarfaraz Khan, although the latter after his 150 against New Zealand at Bengaluru will certainly be the favorite to play at the Optus Stadium from 22 November.

As far as the India A team is concerned, there will be four changes in the squad that played the first 'unofficial Test' at Mackay, which the visitors lost by seven wickets.

Rahul will come in place of Baba Indrajith, who scored 9 and 6 and didn't look comfortable at all against pace and bounce, which wasn't exactly 125 clicks.

Jurel will come in place of Ishan Kishan, who was at the center of a ball-change controversy at Mackay, although it was more about his terse remarks that left the on-field umpires annoyed.

Navdeep Saini, who also had a poor game will make way for left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed, while off-spinner all-rounder Tanush Kotian will replace slow left-arm orthodox Manav Suthar in the playing XI.

Two players who will miss out on game time are keeper-batter Abhishek Porel and burly middle-order willow wielder Ricky Bhui. —*PTI*

IPL MEGA AUCTION

James leads auction list, Ben missing

James Anderson and Italian quick pacer Thomas Draca PHOTO: PTI

MUMBAI, 6 NOV

England Test skipper Ben Stokes is missing from the list of 1,574 players while his former teammate James Anderson, Italian quick Thomas Draca, and India-born USA medium pacer Saurabh Netravalkar have all registered for the IPL mega auction to be held in Jeddah on 24 and 25 November.

The list, which will be shortened after the franchises provide their inputs, has all the marquee Indian players who were released from their teams including Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, R Ashwin, and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Each of these five cricketers has listed themselves at a base price of Rs 2 crore.

India quick Mohammed Shami, who has been sidelined from action due to various injuries since last November, was also released by his former team Gujarat Titans and has listed himself at Rs 2 crore and so has left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh.

Among the other Indian players on the list with the maximum base price of Rs 2 crore are Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Venkatesh Iyer, Avesh Khan, Deepak Chahar, Ishan Kishan, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

This list also includes Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Devdutt Padikkal, Krunal Pandya, Harshal Patel, Prasidh Krishna, T Natarajan, Washington Sundar, and Umesh Yadav.

India batters Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw, who were unsold in the last IPL auction, have registered themselves at the base price of Rs 75 lakh each.

Stokes, who had decided to give the last season of the IPL a miss to manage his workload and focus on his fitness, has opted out for the 2025 edition as well.

—*PTI*

RANJI TROPHY CLASH

Shreyas Iyer's 152 not out drives Mumbai to 385/3 against Odisha

Shreyas Iyer smashed 152 not out PHOTO: PTI

MUMBAI, 6 NOV

Shreyas Iyer returned to Ranji Trophy with another cracking 152 not out to power Mumbai to a dominating 385/3 against Odisha in their Elite Group A clash's first day, here on Wednesday.

Iyer found strong support from Siddhesh Lad, who made 116 not out (234 balls, 14x4s) as the two middle-order batters tore into the Odisha bowling, putting on 231 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket stand.

India batter Iyer's belligerent knock of 164 balls includedWhile openers Suraj Vashisht (79 off 191 balls, 9x4s, 1x6s) and Shubham Rohilla (67 off 132 balls, 9x4s) added 128 for the opening wicket, Ravi Chauhan hit a 130-ball 59 with five fours and two sixes to consolidate for the visitors.

At the MCA Ground in Shillong, the hosts Meghalaya were in trouble against Jammu and Kashmir who produced an all-round show to be ahead by 52 runs at the close of play.

K'taka makes late fightback

Veteran skipper Anustup Majumdar led from the front with a gritty century, steering Bengal out of early trouble before Karnataka staged a late comeback to leave Bengal at an uncomfortable 249/5 on the opening day of their Group C Ranji Trophy match here on Wednesday. Karnataka's new-ball bowler Vasuki Koushik struck early, removing Bengal opener Shuvam Dey for a three-ball duck, and then dismissed Sudip Gharami after a painstaking 45-ball-5, reducing Bengal to 21 for 2 after opting to bat first. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Neeraj Chopra bids heartfelt farewell to coach Bartonietz

NEW DELHI, 6 NOV

Neeraj Chopra on Wednesday bid an emotional farewell to his German coach Klaus Bartonietz who ended his five-year partnership with the star Indian javelin thrower, citing family commitments.

The 75-year-old coach, who guided Chopra to a historic gold at the Tokyo Olympics, a silver at the Paris Games this year, and several other medals, had earlier expressed his inability to continue, as reported by PTI in October. "I write this without knowing where to begin. Coach, you are more than just a mentor to me. Everything you taught has helped me grow both as an athlete and a person. —*PTI*

Arjun holds Aronian to draw; Vaishali earns first points

CHENNAI, 6 NOV

India's Arjun Erigaisi continued his strong start to the Chennai Grand Masters by holding the second-highest-ranked player in the tournament, American Grandmaster Levon Aronian, to a draw on Wednesday.

In the Challengers, Vaishali R, one of two female chess players debuting this year, earned her first points by holding top-seed Raunak Sadhwani.

The Chennai Grand Masters features two categories -- Masters and Challengers.

With a rating average of 2729, the Masters presents a more competitive field this time around. The debuting Challengers, meanwhile, is designed to provide emerging Indian talent the chance to compete in a top-class tournament.

Playing with the white pieces, Arjun kicked things off with a Queen's Pawn Opening, met by Aronian's response in the Indian Game.

The two GMs exchanged tactical maneuvers and strategic depth, pushing each other through every phase of the game before ultimately settling for a hard-fought draw, both showing immense skill and resilience.

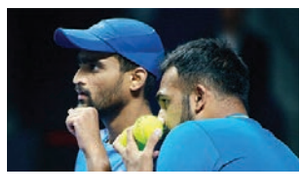
Aravindh Chithambaram and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave drew their contest in a tactical stand-off.

Amin Tabatabaei scored a crucial win over Alexey Sarana, while Parham Maghsoodloo defeated Vidit Gujrathi, pushing the stakes higher in this FIDE Circuit qualifier.

Meanwhile, in the Challengers category, Pranesh M and Karthikeyan Murali played out a draw. —*PTI*

Rithvik-Cabral pair shocks top seeds at Moselle Open

METZ, 6 JUNE



India's Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli and his partner Francisco Cabral knocked out top seeds Santiago Gonzalez and Edouard Roger-Vasselin to storm into the men's doubles semifinal of the Moselle Open, here on Wednesday.

The unseeded Indo-Portuguese pair rattled up a 7-6 (1) 6-4 win over Mexico's Gonzalez and Roger-Vasselin from France in the quarterfinals. It is the first semifinal appearance on the ATP Tour for Bollipalli, who hails from Hyderabad.

They will next face the winners of an all-French quarterfinal clash between the pairs of Manuel Guinard/Gregoire Jacq and Pierre-Hugues Herbert/Albano Olivetti.

Sumit Nagal and N Sriram Balaji, the two other Indians who entered the ATP 250 tournament, have already exited following first-round defeats in their respective events. —*PTI*

AC Milan topple CL holders Real Madrid

LONDON, 6 NOV

Champions League holders Real Madrid fell to a 3-1 home defeat by AC Milan on Tuesday in the group stage with striker Kylian Mbappe unable to find the net again. The 25-year-old France captain has scored once in his last six matches for Madrid across all competitions, including three losses for Los Blancos. Malick Thiaw headed the Italian side ahead before Vinicius Junior leveled from the penalty spot for the hosts. Alvaro Morata struck against his former side to restore Milan's lead before the break and Tijjani Reijnders netted the third to secure Milan's victory.

Madrid was unable to bounce back strongly from the 4-0 thrashing by Barcelona in late October, their last outing after Saturday's La Liga match at Valencia was postponed because of devastating floods in the east of Spain.

Players from both sides wore t-shirts before the match reading "We are all Valencia" while in one stand a giant Valencia regional flag was unfurled for a minute's silence. In the 90 minutes that followed, Paulo Fonseca's Milan, seventh in Serie A, outclassed Madrid.

AC Milan's Dutch midfielder Tijani Reijnders (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring their third goal during the UEFA Champions League PHOTO: X

"We are going through a period when our opponents are punishing us a lot and we have to keep working so that this doesn't happen again," Madrid defender Lucas Vazquez told Movistar.

Los Blancos have let in nine goals in their last three home matches. "We have to be worried, the team's not giving a good account of itself," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti.

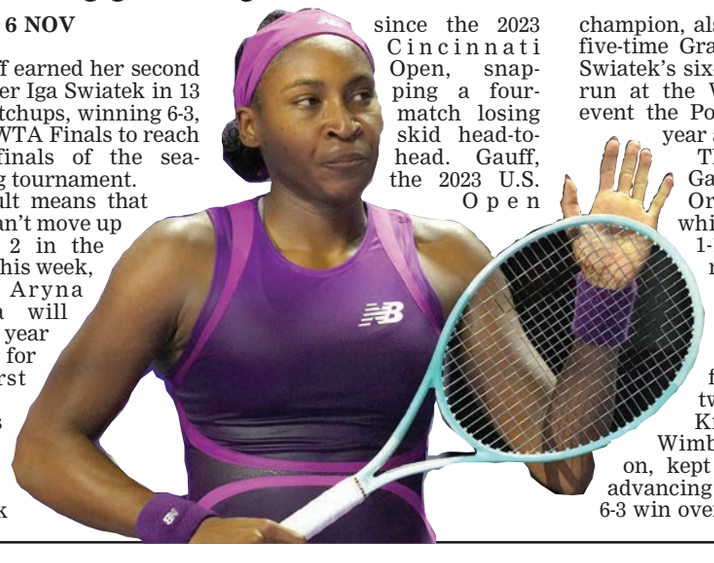
"The team is not compact, we have to be more compact, more organized, we've let in a lot of goals... we're not well organized on the pitch and we have to work on that."

Milan have won the competition seven times, behind only record 15-time champions Madrid, but have not reached a final since 2007, when Ancelotti led them to the trophy. —*PTI*

WTA FINALS

Gauff defeats Swiatek to reach SFs

RIYADH, 6 NOV



Coco Gauff earned her second victory over Iga Swiatek in 13 career matchups, winning 6-3, 6-4 at the WTA Finals to reach the semifinals of the season-ending tournament.

The result means that Swiatek can't move up from No. 2 in the rankings this week, so Aryna Sabalenka will finish the year at No. 1 for the first time.

It was Gauff's first victory over Swiatek since the 2023 Cincinnati Open, snapping a four-match losing skid head-to-head. Gauff, the 2023 U.S. Open champion, also put an end to five-time Grand Slam champ Swiatek's six-match unbeaten run at the WTA Finals, an event the Polish star won a year ago.

The win moved Gauff to 2-0 in the Orange Group, while Swiatek fell to 1-1. Swiatek had rallied to beat Barbora Krejcikova in three sets on Sunday in her first match in two months.

Krejcikova, the Wimbledon champion, kept her chances of advancing alive with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Jessica Pegula.

- The result means that Swiatek can't move up from No. 2 in the rankings this week, so Aryna Sabalenka will finish the year at No. 1 for the first time.

That eliminated Pegula, who lost in straight sets to Gauff in their opening match in Saudi Arabia.

Krejcikova was the last player to qualify for the event for the top eight players on the women's tennis tour, earning her berth thanks to her Grand Slam title at the All England Club in July. At No. 13, she became the lowest-ranked player to win a WTA Finals match since Magda Maleeva 22 years ago. —*PTI*

Brazilian police to investigate following pig's head incident

SAO PAULO, 6 NOV

Brazilian police were investigating at least three soccer fans on Tuesday after a pig's head was thrown onto the field during a league game between bitter rivals Corinthians and Palmeiras.

Corinthians beat Palmeiras 2-0 on Monday evening at the NeoQuimica Arena in Sao Paulo, but the big talking point was the incident in the 39th minute when the score was still 0-0.

The pig's head was thrown onto the field as Palmeiras was preparing to take a corner and Corinthians striker Yuri Alberto ran over to kick it away.

"I almost broke my foot. I thought it was a cushion, something like that," Alberto told journalists after the match. "I tried to kick it hard, but it was a pig's head, I almost injured my foot."

Investigator César Saad told journalists that the pig's head was brought to the stadium hours before the match. Two men have been questioned about the incident and police were still looking for a third, who was sitting next to them during the game. —*PTI*